HOTHAL

In Indian mythology, apsaras are beautiful dancers who live in heaven. Hothal is different. Though an apsara, she longs to live on earth like a mortal.

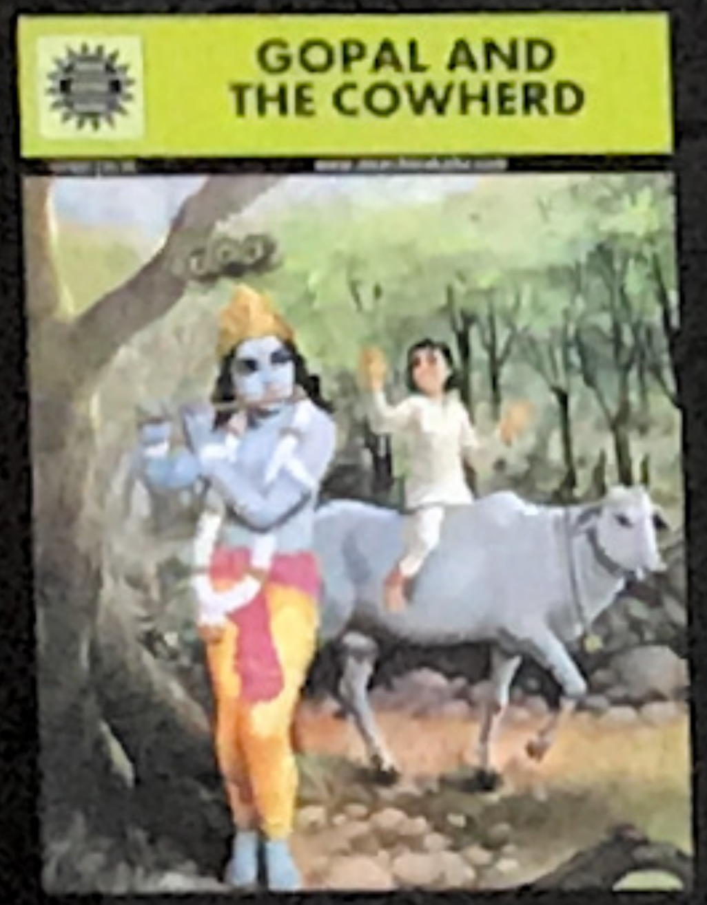
Hothal gets her wish when Indra sends her to live on earth. She finds that life as a human is harder and even more sorrowful than she can imagine. Her father is evicted from his kingdom, and they live as exiles. Even when her beloved father dies, Hothal remains brave and strong. She decides to disguise herself as a man and avenge the injustice done to her father. While in disguise, she allies herself with the valiant Odha and soon falls deeply in love with him.

This story from Kutch is an exciting mixture of war, wit, and romance.

OTHER ACK FABLES & HUMOUR:

THUGSEN

VIDYUT CHORA

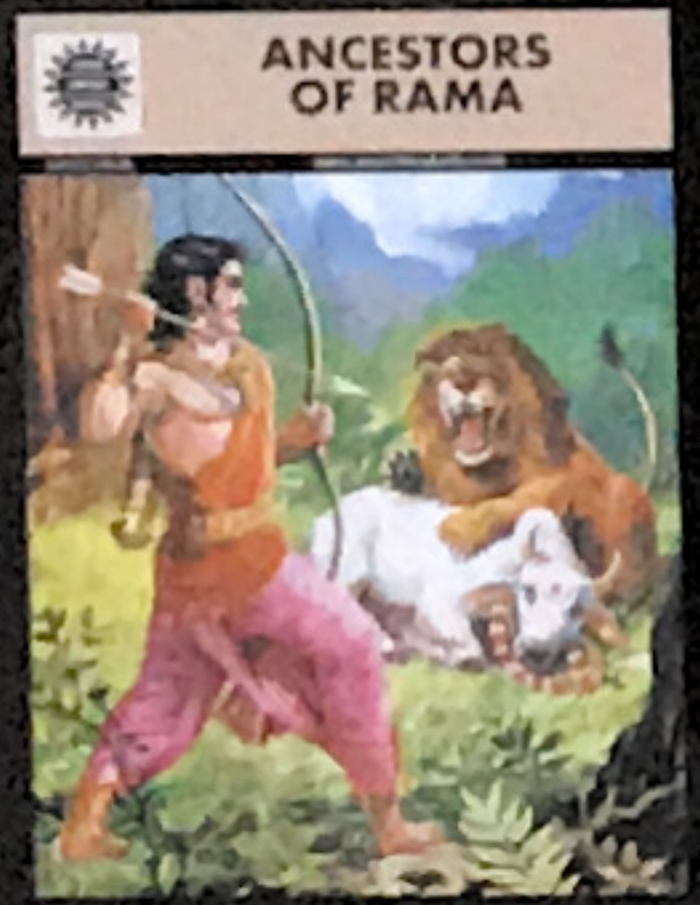

GOPAL AND THE COWHERD

BIKAL THE TERRIBLE

ALSO LOOK FOR:

ANIRUDDHA

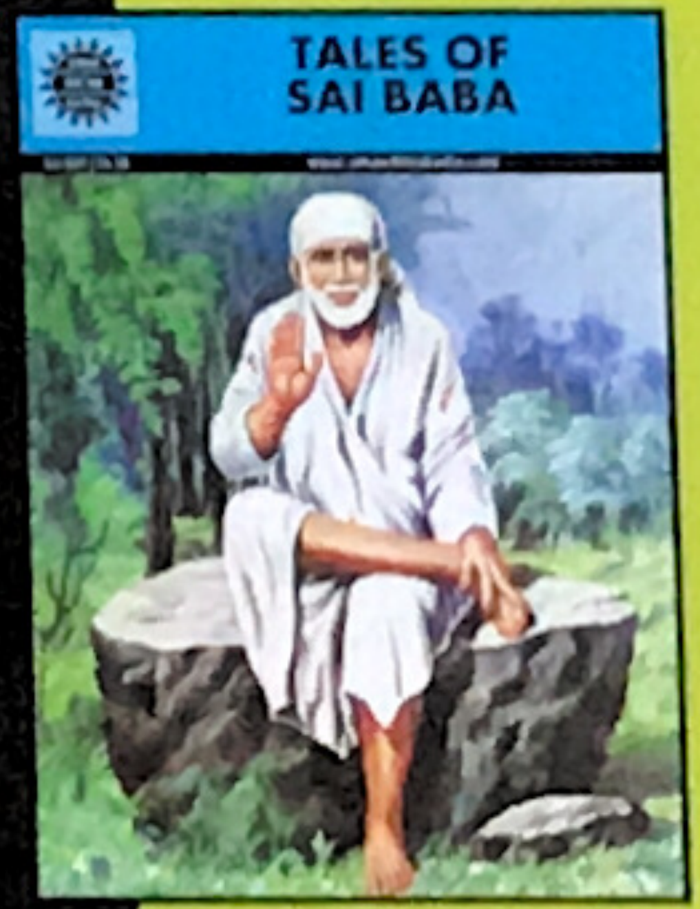
EPICS & MYTHOLOGY


ANCESTORS OF RAMA

INDIAN CLASSICS

BIDHI CHAND

BRAVEHEARTS


TALES OF SAI BABA

VISIONARIES

Buy online at www.amarchitrakatha.com

"Amar Chitra Kathas are a glorious tribute to India's rich cultural heritage. These books have been an integral part of my children's early years, as they have been for many other families across India. Comics are a great way of reaching out to children, inculcating reading habits and driving their quest to learn more about our roots."

- NARAYAN MURTHY, CHIEF MENTOR, INFOSYS

FABLES & HUMOUR

ISBN 81-8482-420-3

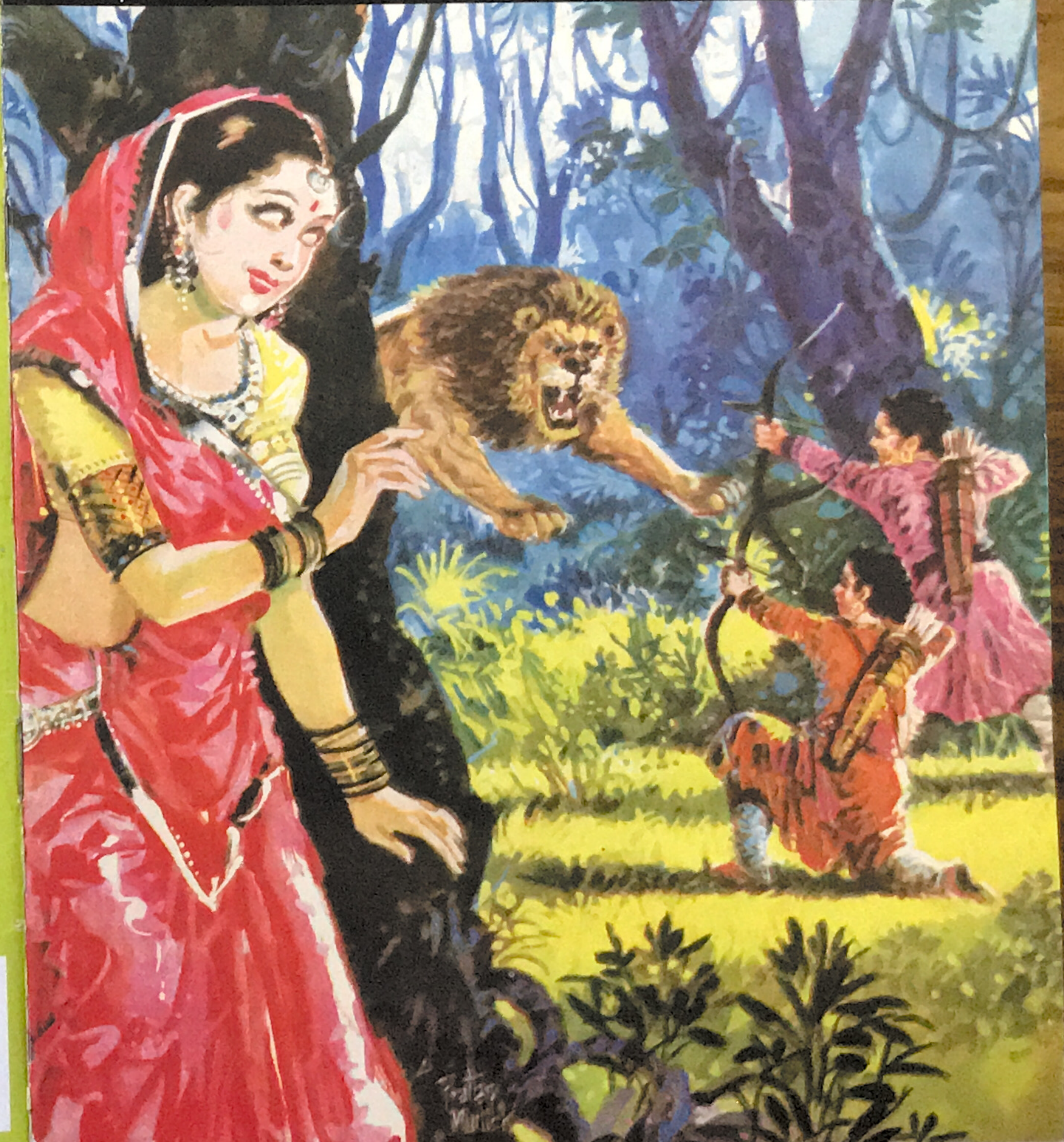
9 788184 824209

AMAR CHITRA KATHA

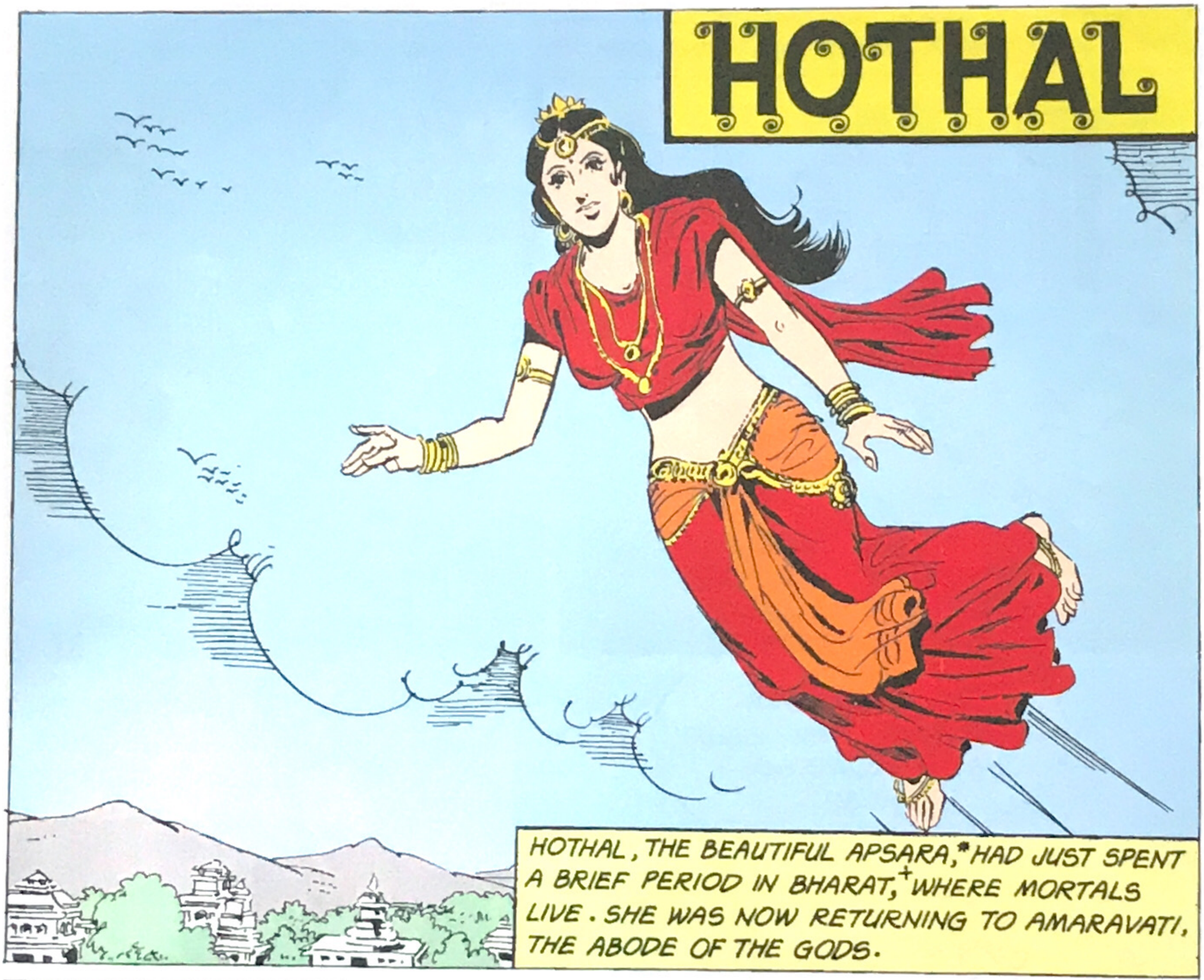
HOTHAL

THE STORY OF A CELESTIAL DANCER

Vol 781 | ₹50

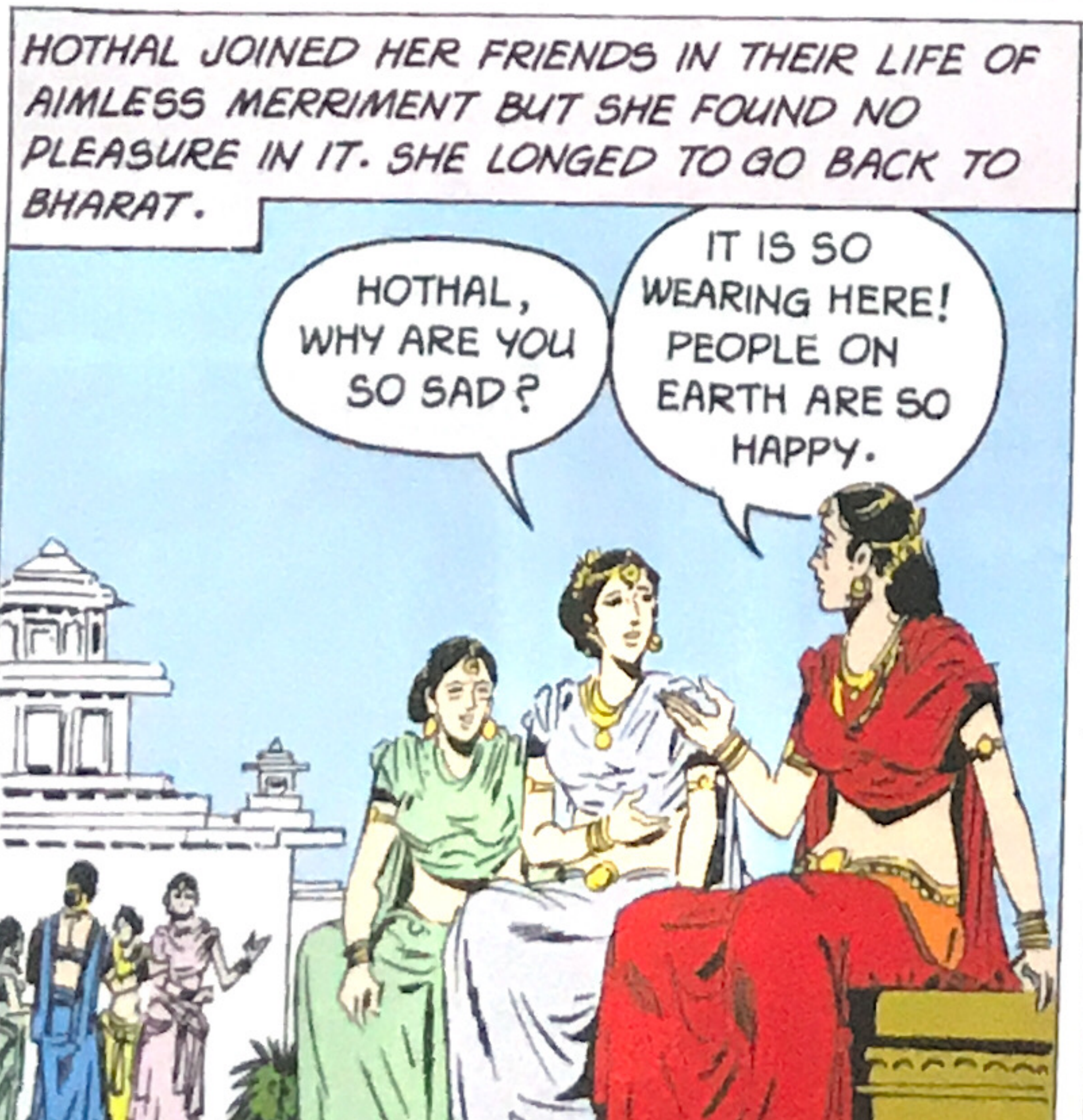


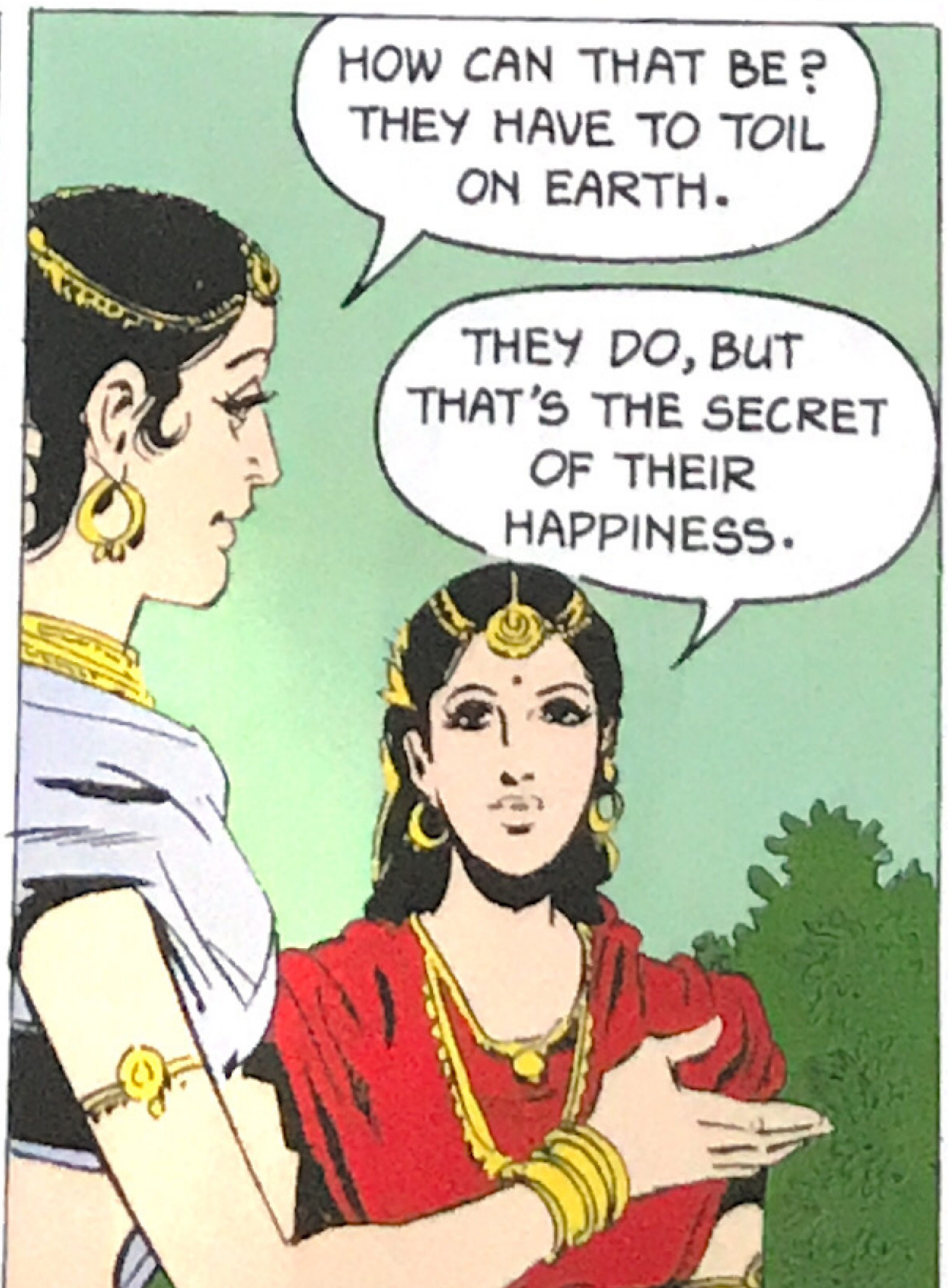
HOTHAL



HOTHAL, THE BEAUTIFUL APSARA,* HAD JUST SPENT A BRIEF PERIOD IN BHARAT,† WHERE MORTALS LIVE. SHE WAS NOW RETURNING TO AMARAVATI, THE ABODE OF THE GODS.

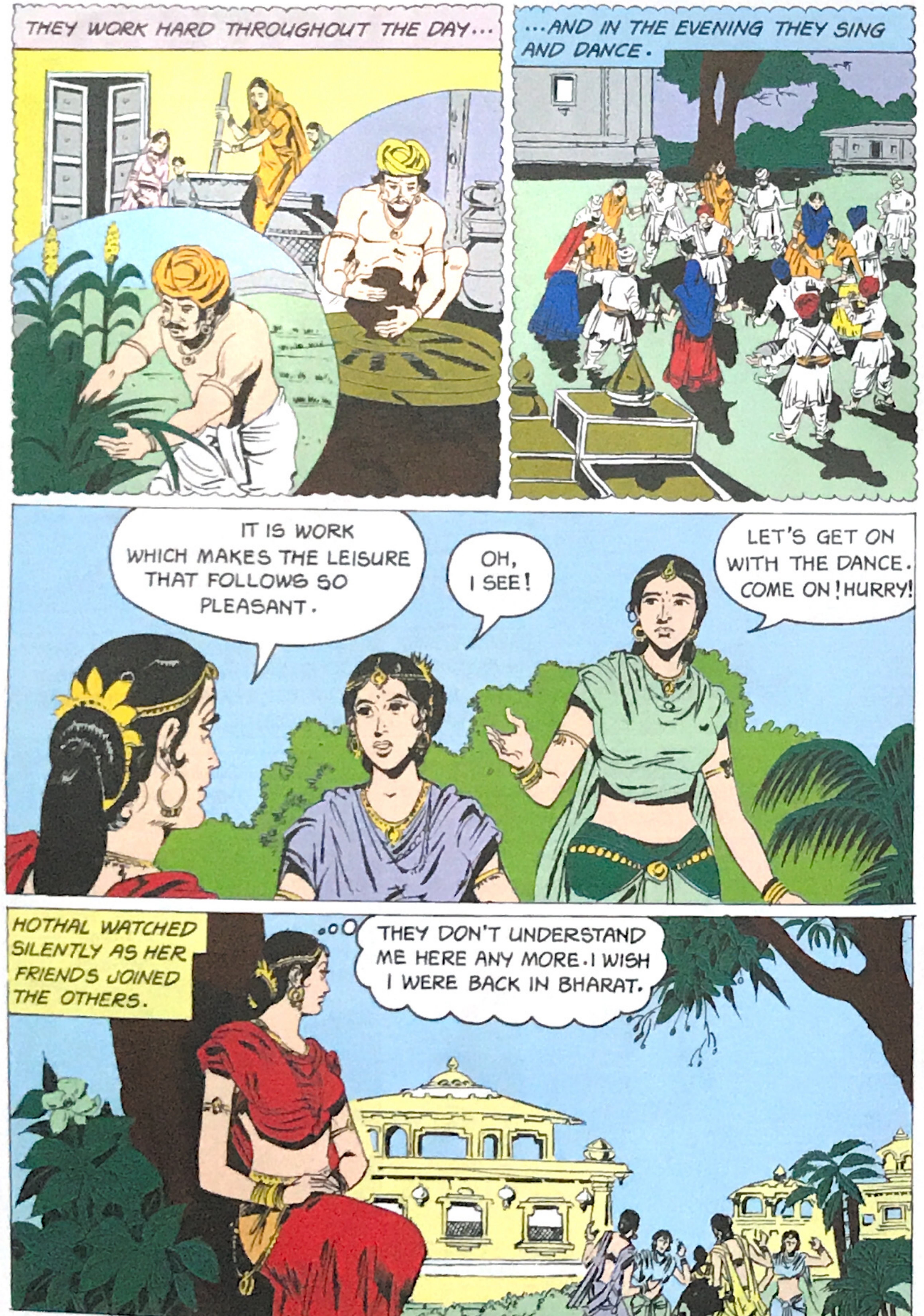
HOTHAL JOINED HER FRIENDS IN THEIR LIFE OF AIMLESS MERRIMENT BUT SHE FOUND NO PLEASURE IN IT. SHE LONGED TO GO BACK TO BHARAT.

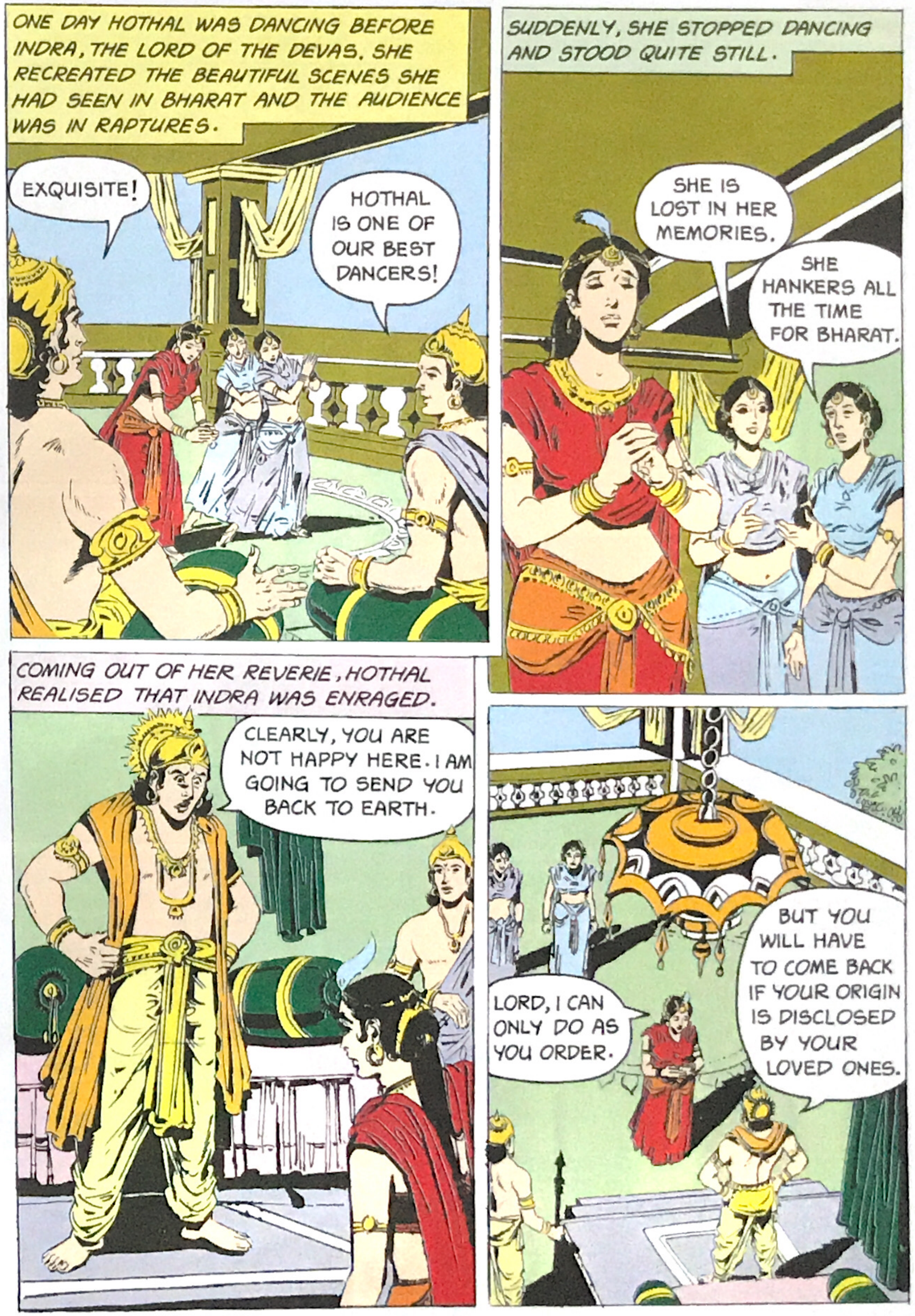

HOTHAL, WHY ARE YOU SO SAD?
IT IS SO WEARING HERE! PEOPLE ON EARTH ARE SO HAPPY.

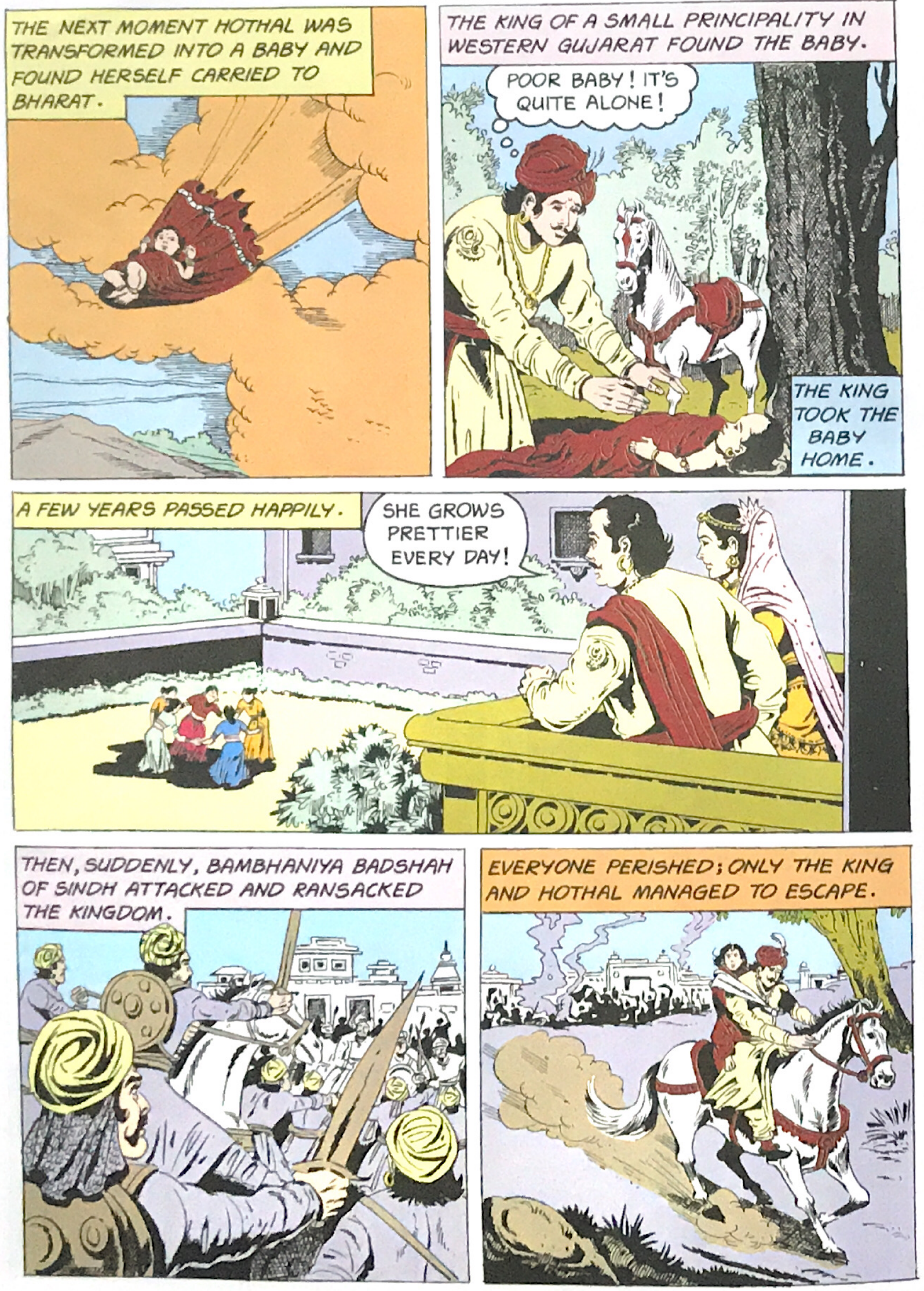

HOW CAN THAT BE? THEY HAVE TO TOIL ON EARTH.
THEY DO, BUT THAT'S THE SECRET OF THEIR HAPPINESS.

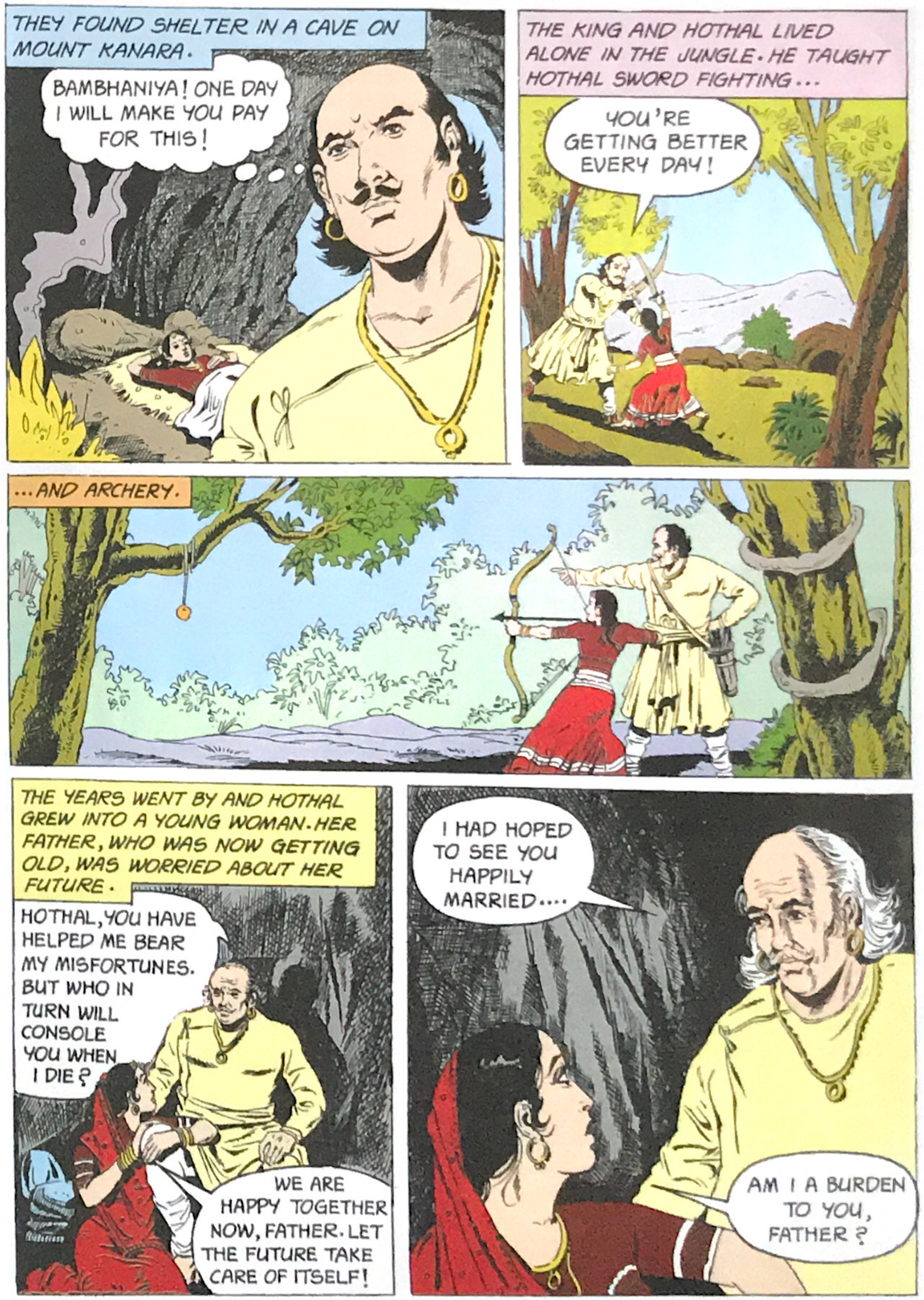
---

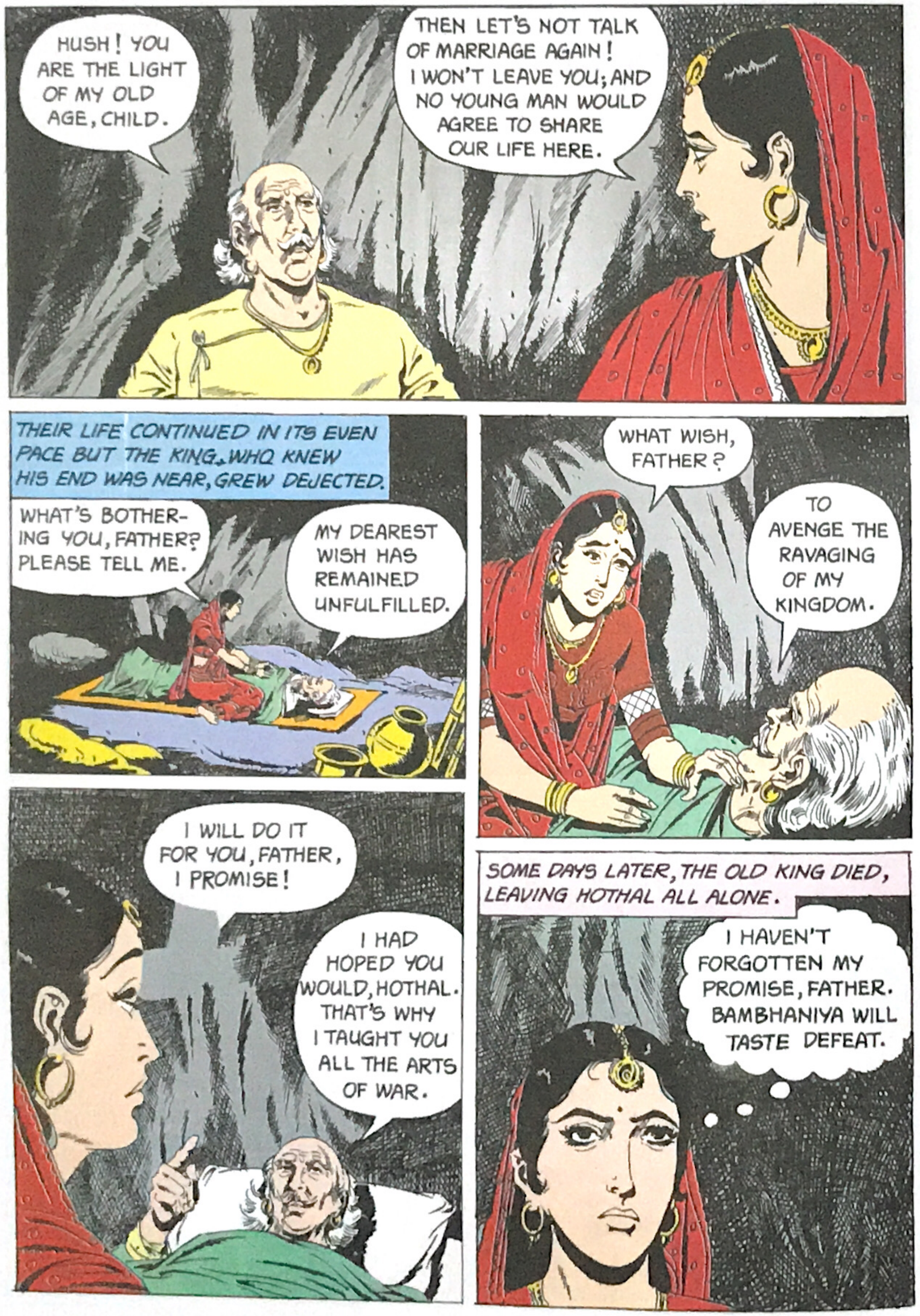
* A CELESTIAL NYMPH † INDIA

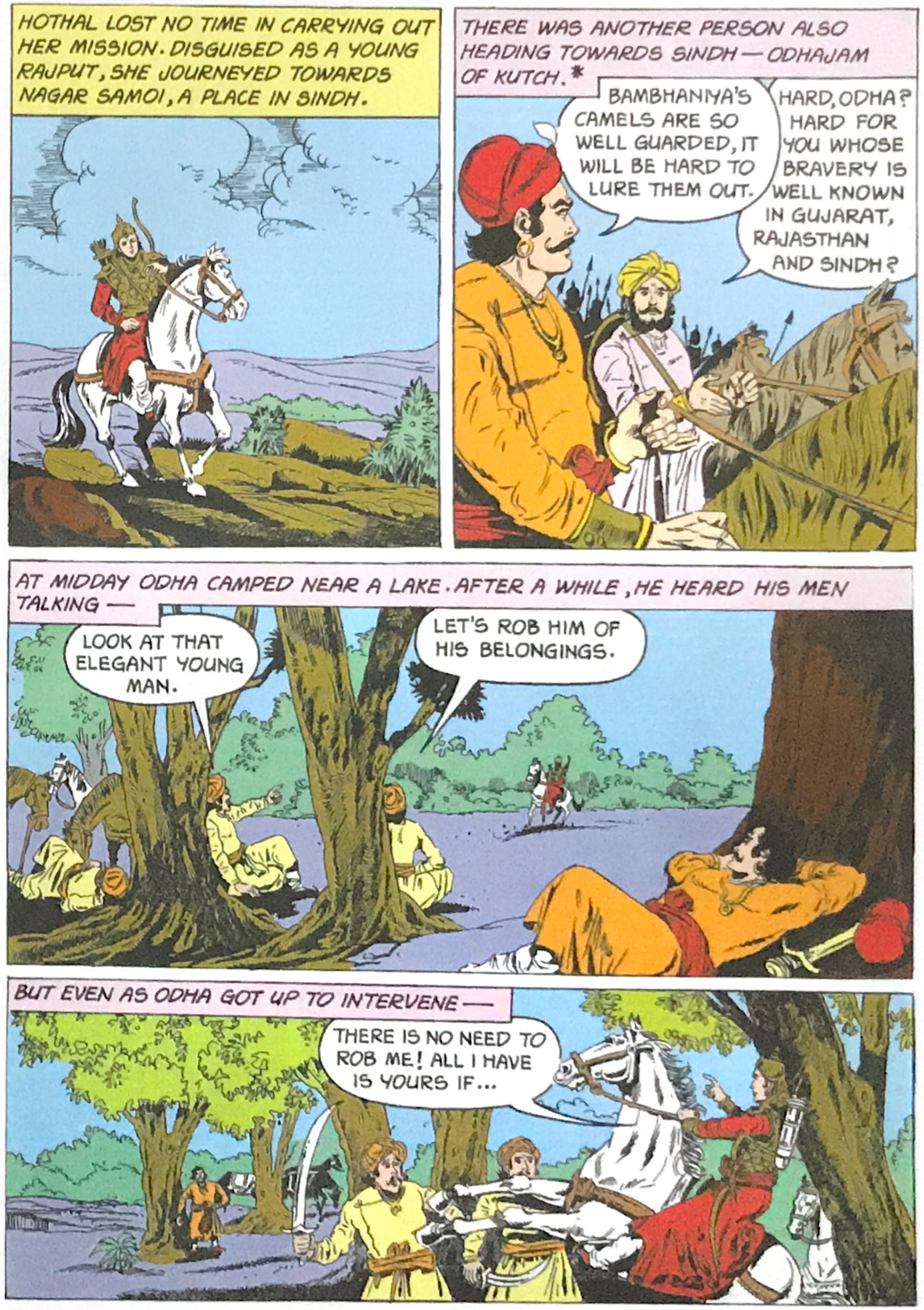

THEY WORK HARD THROUGHOUT THE DAY...
...AND IN THE EVENING THEY SING AND DANCE.
IT IS WORK WHICH MAKES THE LEISURE THAT FOLLOWS SO PLEASANT.
OH, I SEE!
LET'S GET ON WITH THE DANCE. COME ON! HURRY!
HOTHAL WATCHED SILENTLY AS HER FRIENDS JOINED THE OTHERS.
THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND ME HERE ANY MORE. I WISH I WERE BACK IN BHARAT.


ONE DAY HOTHAL WAS DANCING BEFORE INDRA, THE LORD OF THE DEVAS. SHE RECREATED THE BEAUTIFUL SCENES SHE HAD SEEN IN BHARAT AND THE AUDIENCE WAS IN RAPTURES.
EXQUISITE!
HOTHAL IS ONE OF OUR BEST DANCERS!
SUDDENLY, SHE STOPPED DANCING AND STOOD QUITE STILL.
SHE IS LOST IN HER MEMORIES.
SHE HANKERS ALL THE TIME FOR BHARAT.
COMING OUT OF HER REVERIE, HOTHAL REALISED THAT INDRA WAS ENRAGED.
CLEARLY, YOU ARE NOT HAPPY HERE. I AM GOING TO SEND YOU BACK TO EARTH.
LORD, I CAN ONLY DO AS YOU ORDER.
BUT YOU WILL HAVE TO COME BACK IF YOUR ORIGIN IS DISCLOSED BY YOUR LOVED ONES.

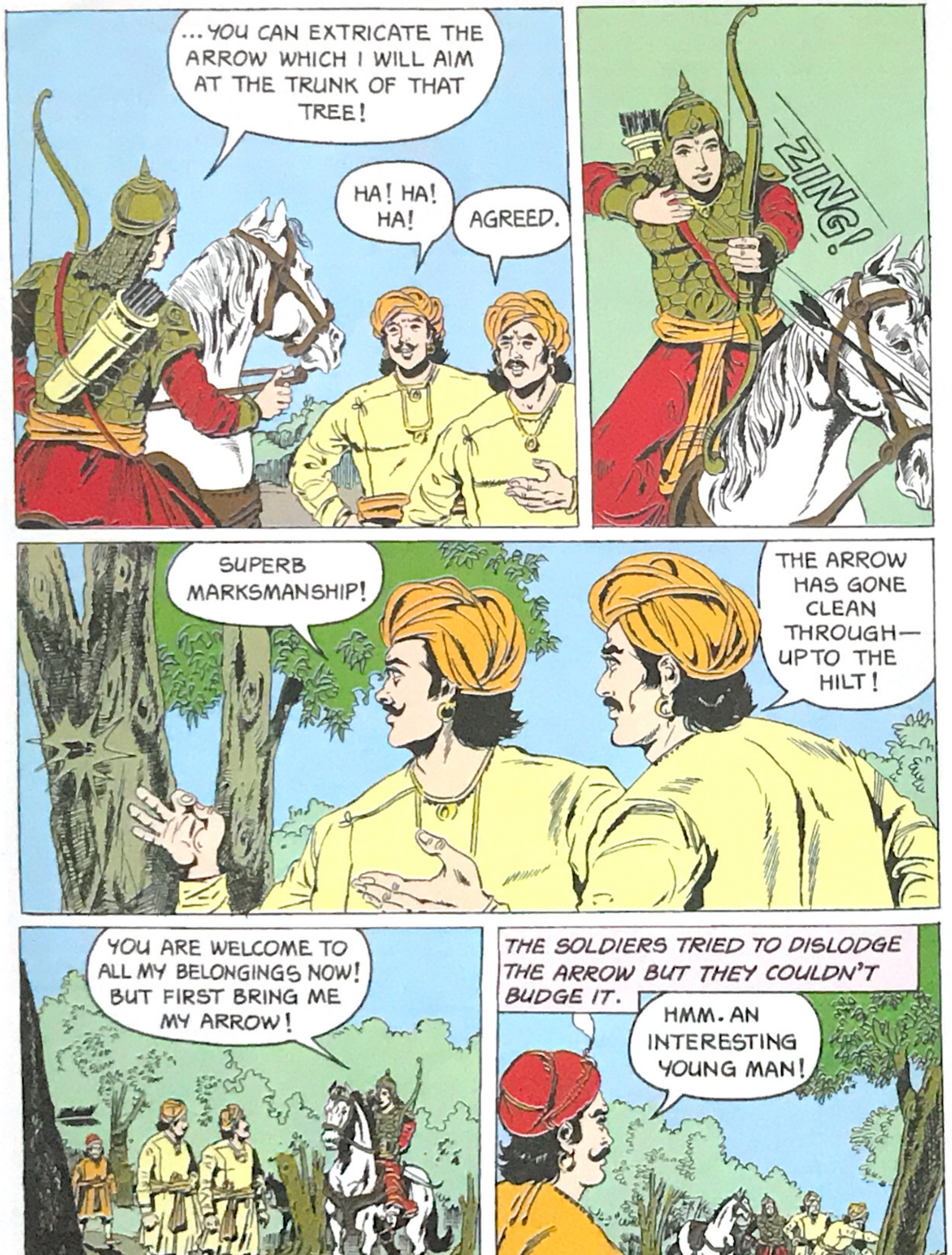

THE NEXT MOMENT HOTHAL WAS TRANSFORMED INTO A BABY AND FOUND HERSELF CARRIED TO BHARAT.
THE KING OF A SMALL PRINCIPALITY IN WESTERN GUJARAT FOUND THE BABY.
POOR BABY! IT'S QUITE ALONE!
THE KING TOOK THE BABY HOME.
A FEW YEARS PASSED HAPPILY.
SHE GROWS PRETTIER EVERY DAY!
THEN, SUDDENLY, BAMBHANIYA BADSHAH OF SINDH ATTACKED AND RANSACKED THE KINGDOM.
EVERYONE PERISHED; ONLY THE KING AND HOTHAL MANAGED TO ESCAPE.

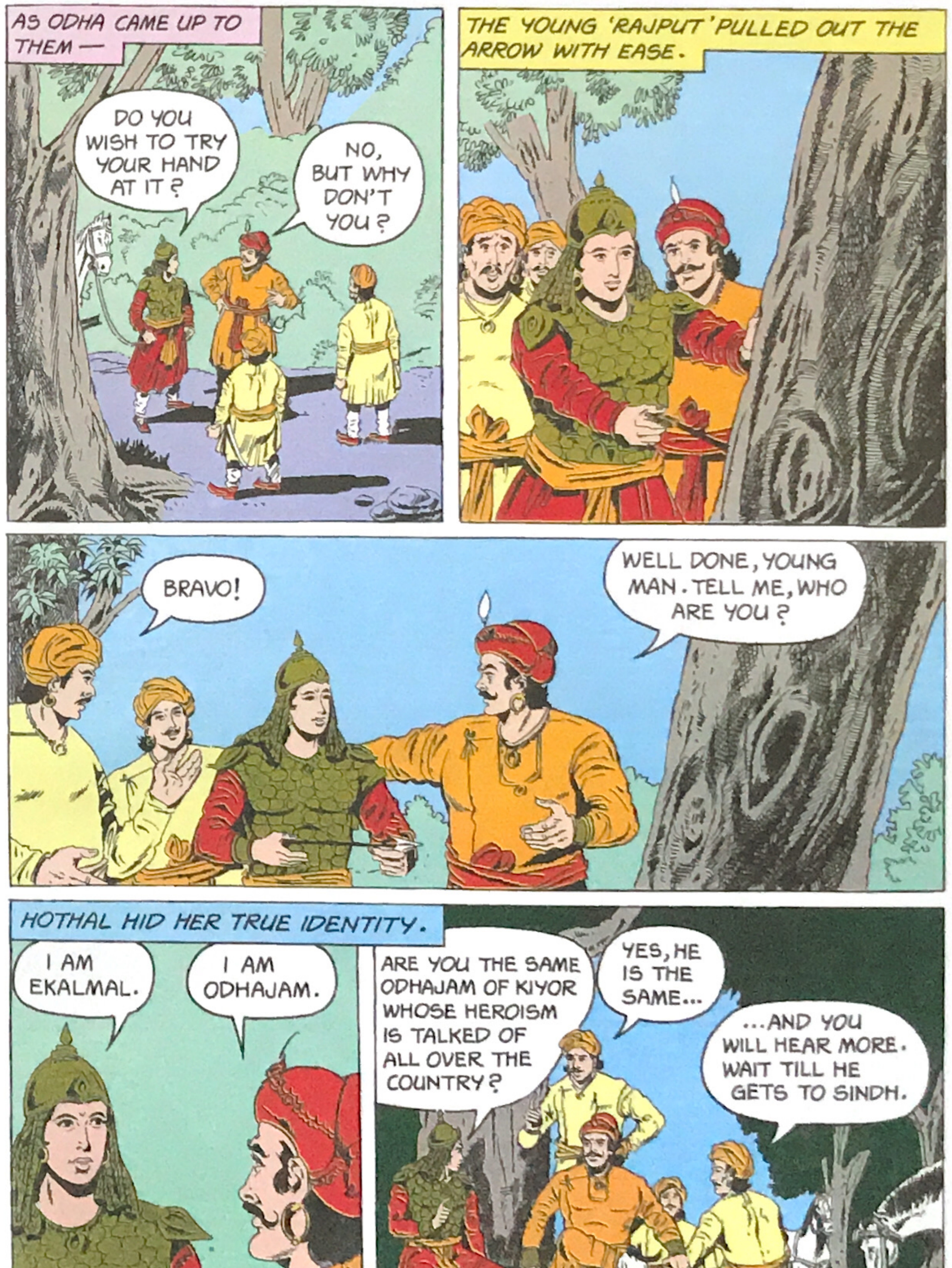

THEY FOUND SHELTER IN A CAVE ON MOUNT KANARA.
BAMBHANIYA! ONE DAY I WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS!
THE KING AND HOTHAL LIVED ALONE IN THE JUNGLE. HE TAUGHT HOTHAL SWORD FIGHTING...
YOU'RE GETTING BETTER EVERY DAY!
...AND ARCHERY.
THE YEARS WENT BY AND HOTHAL GREW INTO A YOUNG WOMAN. HER FATHER, WHO WAS NOW GETTING OLD, WAS WORRIED ABOUT HER FUTURE.
HOTHAL, YOU HAVE HELPED ME BEAR MY MISFORTUNES. BUT WHO IN TURN WILL CONSOLE YOU WHEN I DIE?
WE ARE HAPPY TOGETHER NOW, FATHER. LET THE FUTURE TAKE CARE OF ITSELF!
I HAD HOPED TO SEE YOU HAPPILY MARRIED....
AM I A BURDEN TO YOU, FATHER?

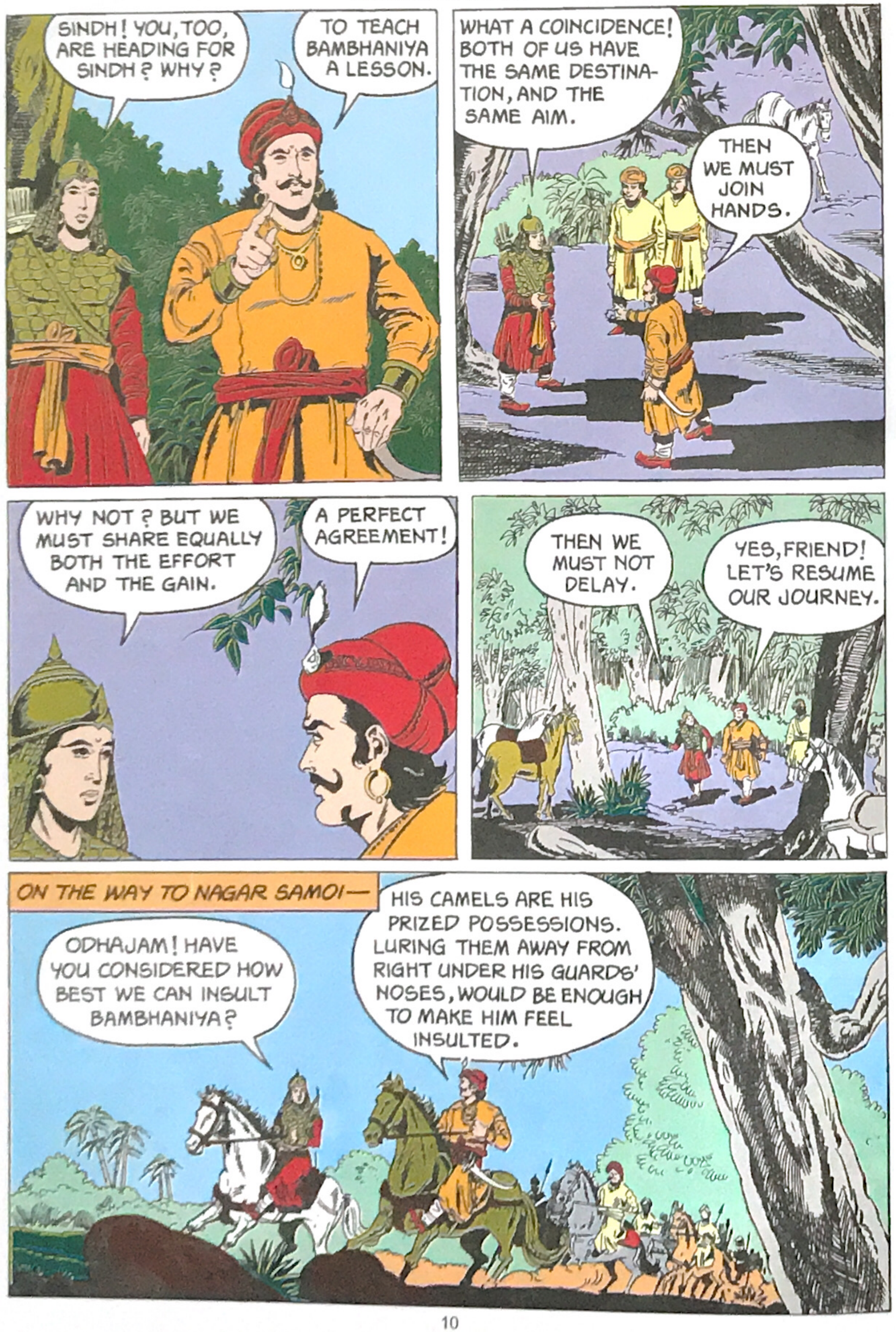

HUSH! YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF MY OLD AGE, CHILD.
THEN LET'S NOT TALK OF MARRIAGE AGAIN! I WON'T LEAVE YOU; AND NO YOUNG MAN WOULD AGREE TO SHARE OUR LIFE HERE.
THEIR LIFE CONTINUED IN ITS EVEN PACE BUT THE KING, WHO KNEW HIS END WAS NEAR, GREW DEJECTED.
WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, FATHER? PLEASE TELL ME.
MY DEAREST WISH HAS REMAINED UNFULFILLED.
WHAT WISH, FATHER?
TO AVENGE THE RAVAGING OF MY KINGDOM.
I WILL DO IT FOR YOU, FATHER, I PROMISE!
I HAD HOPED YOU WOULD, HOTHAL. THAT'S WHY I TAUGHT YOU ALL THE ARTS OF WAR.
SOME DAYS LATER, THE OLD KING DIED, LEAVING HOTHAL ALL ALONE.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN MY PROMISE, FATHER. BAMBHANIYA WILL TASTE DEFEAT.

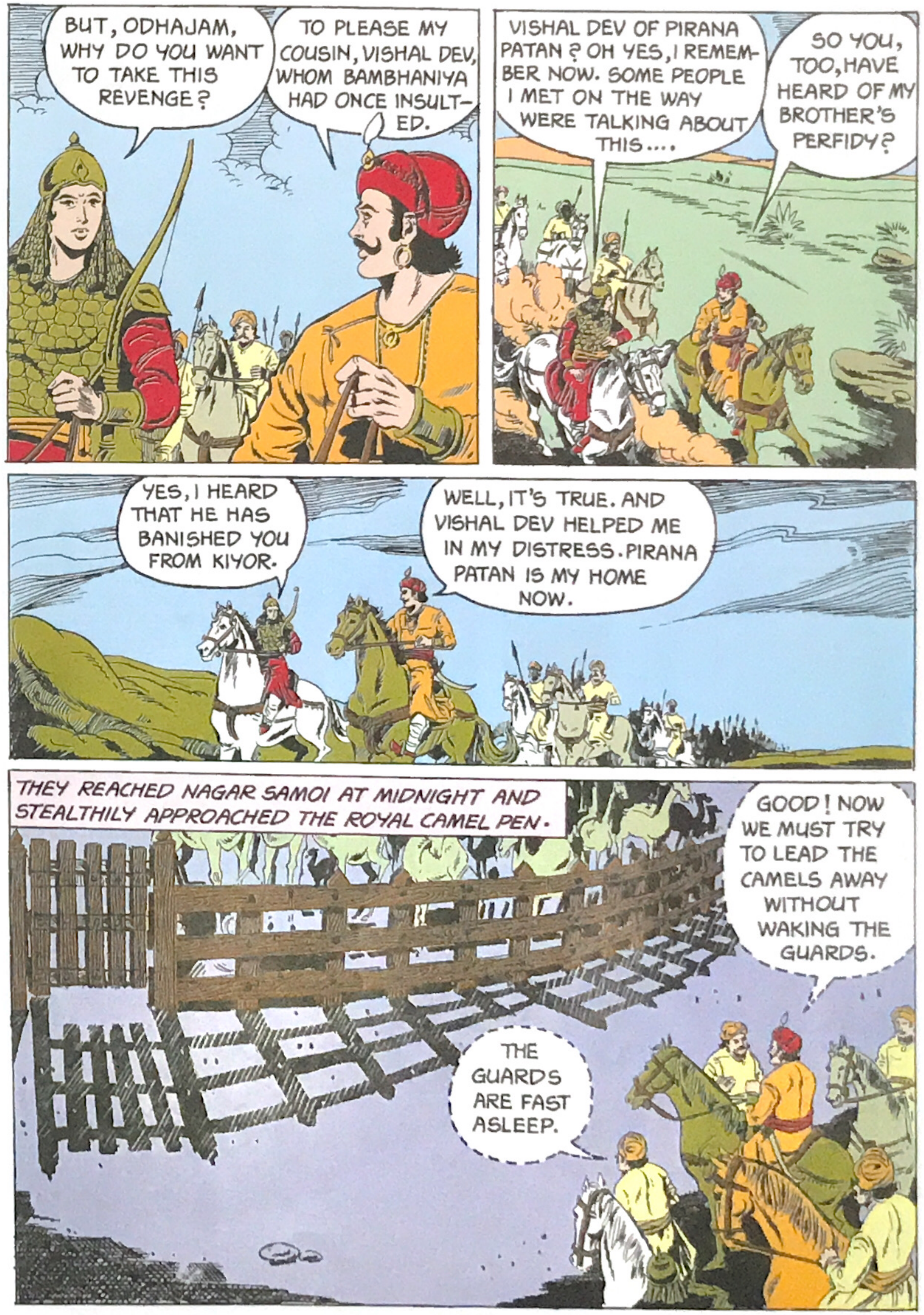

HOTHAL LOST NO TIME IN CARRYING OUT HER MISSION. DISGUISED AS A YOUNG RAJPUT, SHE JOURNEYED TOWARDS NAGAR SAMOI, A PLACE IN SINDH.
THERE WAS ANOTHER PERSON ALSO HEADING TOWARDS SINDH — ODHAJAM OF KUTCH.*
BAMBHANIYA'S CAMELS ARE SO WELL GUARDED, IT WILL BE HARD TO LURE THEM OUT.
HARD, ODHA? HARD FOR YOU WHOSE BRAVERY IS WELL KNOWN IN GUJARAT, RAJASTHAN AND SINDH?
AT MIDDAY ODHA CAMPED NEAR A LAKE. AFTER A WHILE, HE HEARD HIS MEN TALKING —
LOOK AT THAT ELEGANT YOUNG MAN.
LET'S ROB HIM OF HIS BELONGINGS.
BUT EVEN AS ODHA GOT UP TO INTERVENE —
THERE IS NO NEED TO ROB ME! ALL I HAVE IS YOURS IF ...

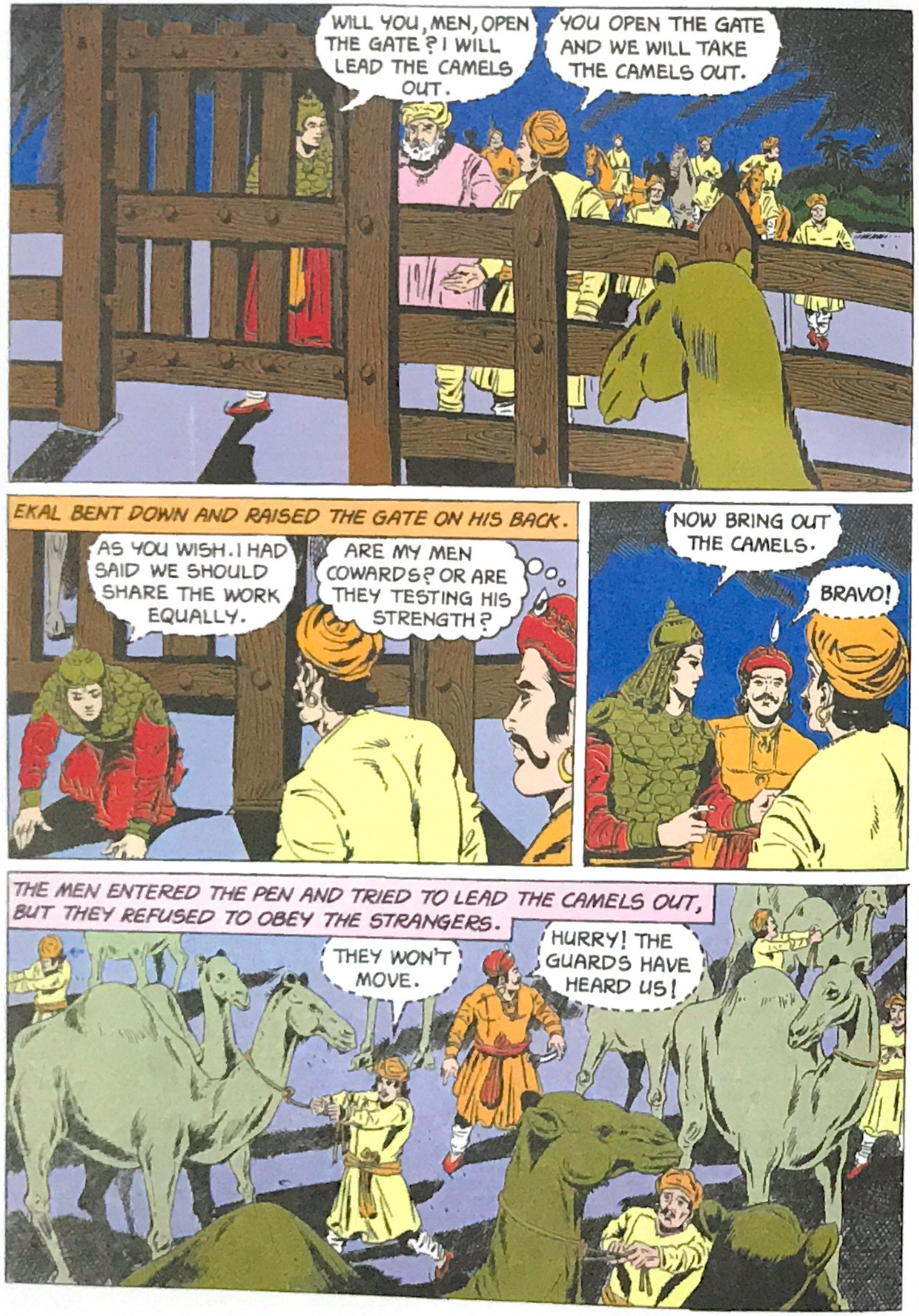
* IN GUJARAT

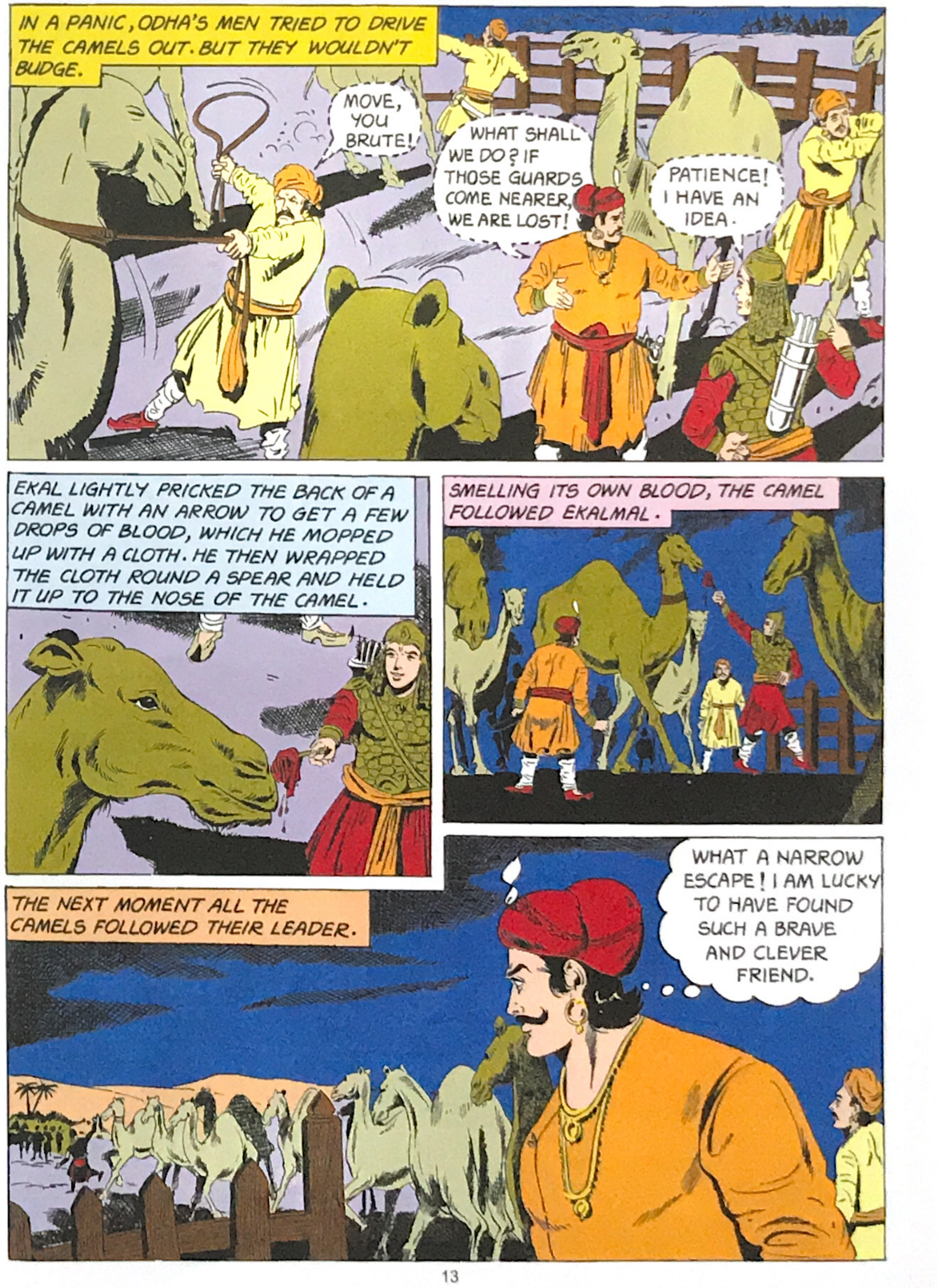

...YOU CAN EXTRICATE THE ARROW WHICH I WILL AIM AT THE TRUNK OF THAT TREE!
HA! HA! HA!
AGREED.
ZING!
SUPERB MARKSMANSHIP!
THE ARROW HAS GONE CLEAN THROUGH— UP TO THE HILT!
YOU ARE WELCOME TO ALL MY BELONGINGS NOW! BUT FIRST BRING ME MY ARROW!
THE SOLDIERS TRIED TO DISLODGE THE ARROW BUT THEY COULDN'T BUDGE IT.
HMM. AN INTERESTING YOUNG MAN!

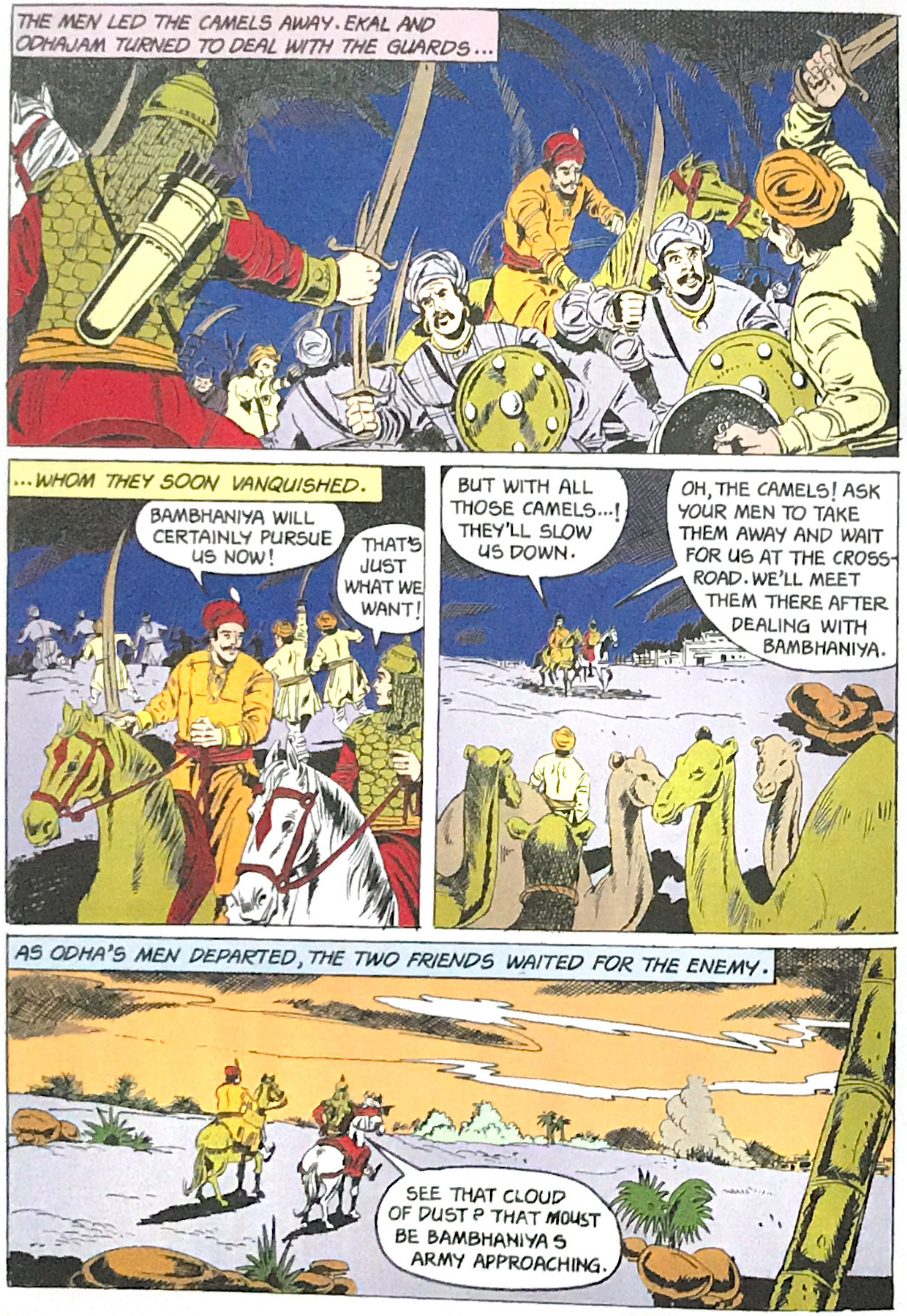

AS ODHA CAME UP TO THEM —
DO YOU WISH TO TRY YOUR HAND AT IT?
NO, BUT WHY DON'T YOU?
THE YOUNG 'RAJPUT' PULLED OUT THE ARROW WITH EASE.
BRAVO!
WELL DONE, YOUNG MAN. TELL ME, WHO ARE YOU?
HOTHAL HID HER TRUE IDENTITY.
I AM EKALMAL.
I AM ODHAJAM.
ARE YOU THE SAME ODHAJAM OF KIYOR WHOSE HEROISM IS TALKED OF ALL OVER THE COUNTRY?
YES, HE IS THE SAME...
...AND YOU WILL HEAR MORE. WAIT TILL HE GETS TO SINDH.

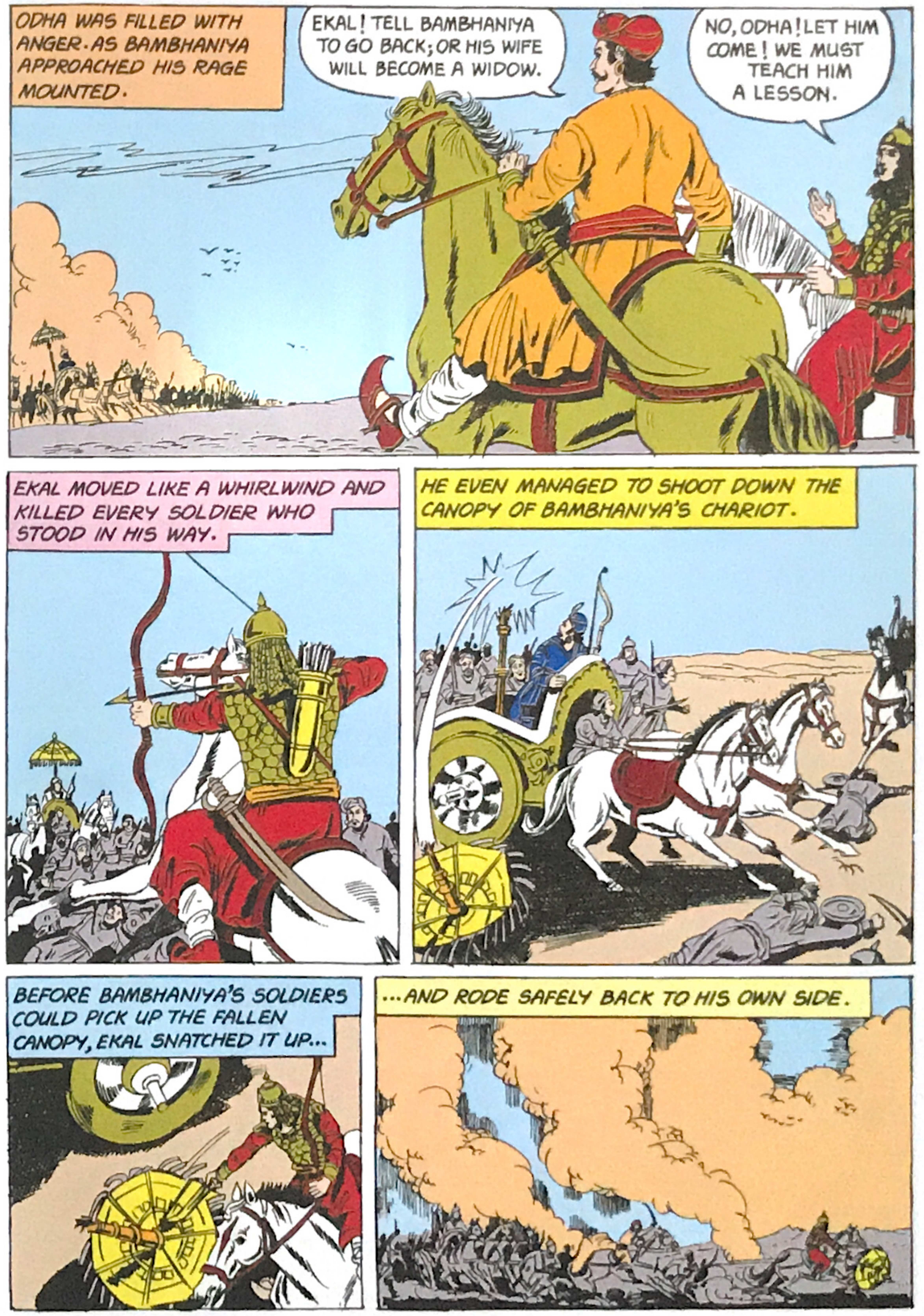

SINDH! YOU, TOO, ARE HEADING FOR SINDH? WHY?
TO TEACH BAMBHANIYA A LESSON.
WHAT A COINCIDENCE! BOTH OF US HAVE THE SAME DESTINATION, AND THE SAME AIM.
THEN WE MUST JOIN HANDS.
WHY NOT? BUT WE MUST SHARE EQUALLY BOTH THE EFFORT AND THE GAIN.
A PERFECT AGREEMENT!
THEN WE MUST NOT DELAY.
YES, FRIEND! LET'S RESUME OUR JOURNEY.
ON THE WAY TO NAGAR SAMOI—
ODHAJAM! HAVE YOU CONSIDERED HOW BEST WE CAN INSULT BAMBHANIYA?
HIS CAMELS ARE HIS PRIZED POSSESSIONS. LURING THEM AWAY FROM RIGHT UNDER HIS GUARDS' NOSES, WOULD BE ENOUGH TO MAKE HIM FEEL INSULTED.

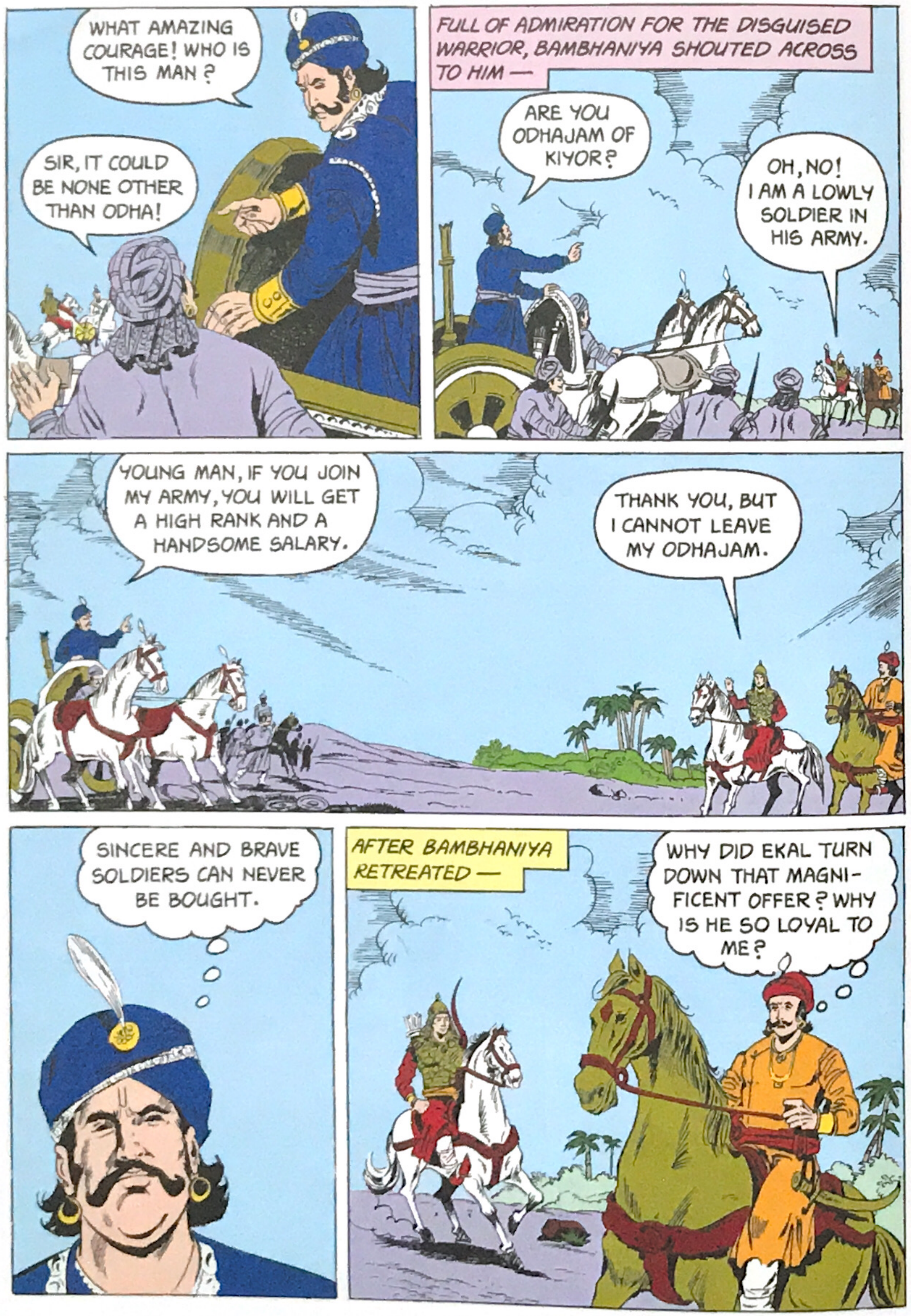

BUT, ODHAJAM, WHY DO YOU WANT TO TAKE THIS REVENGE?
TO PLEASE MY COUSIN, VISHAL DEV, WHOM BAMBHANIYA HAD ONCE INSULTED.
VISHAL DEV OF PIRANA PATAN? OH YES, I REMEMBER NOW. SOME PEOPLE I MET ON THE WAY WERE TALKING ABOUT THIS....
SO YOU, TOO, HAVE HEARD OF MY BROTHER'S PERFIDY?
YES, I HEARD THAT HE HAS BANISHED YOU FROM KIYOR.
WELL, IT'S TRUE. AND VISHAL DEV HELPED ME IN MY DISTRESS. PIRANA PATAN IS MY HOME NOW.
THEY REACHED NAGAR SAMOI AT MIDNIGHT AND STEALTHILY APPROACHED THE ROYAL CAMEL PEN.
GOOD! NOW WE MUST TRY TO LEAD THE CAMELS AWAY WITHOUT WAKING THE GUARDS.
THE GUARDS ARE FAST ASLEEP.

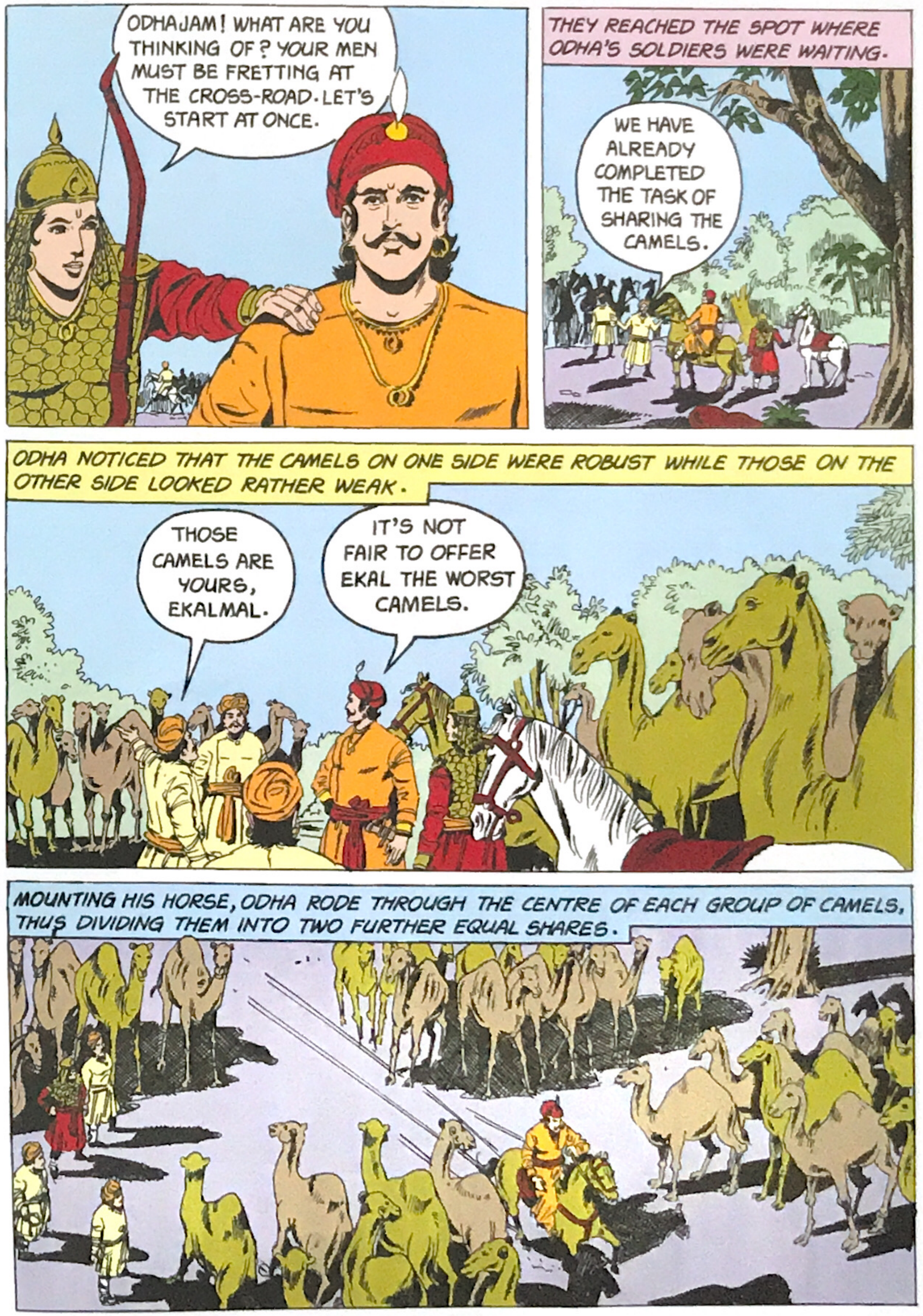

WILL YOU, MEN, OPEN THE GATE? I WILL LEAD THE CAMELS OUT.
YOU OPEN THE GATE AND WE WILL TAKE THE CAMELS OUT.
EKAL BENT DOWN AND RAISED THE GATE ON HIS BACK.
AS YOU WISH. I HAD SAID WE SHOULD SHARE THE WORK EQUALLY.
ARE MY MEN COWARDS? OR ARE THEY TESTING HIS STRENGTH?
NOW BRING OUT THE CAMELS.
BRAVO!
THE MEN ENTERED THE PEN AND TRIED TO LEAD THE CAMELS OUT, BUT THEY REFUSED TO OBEY THE STRANGERS.
THEY WON'T MOVE.
HURRY! THE GUARDS HAVE HEARD US!

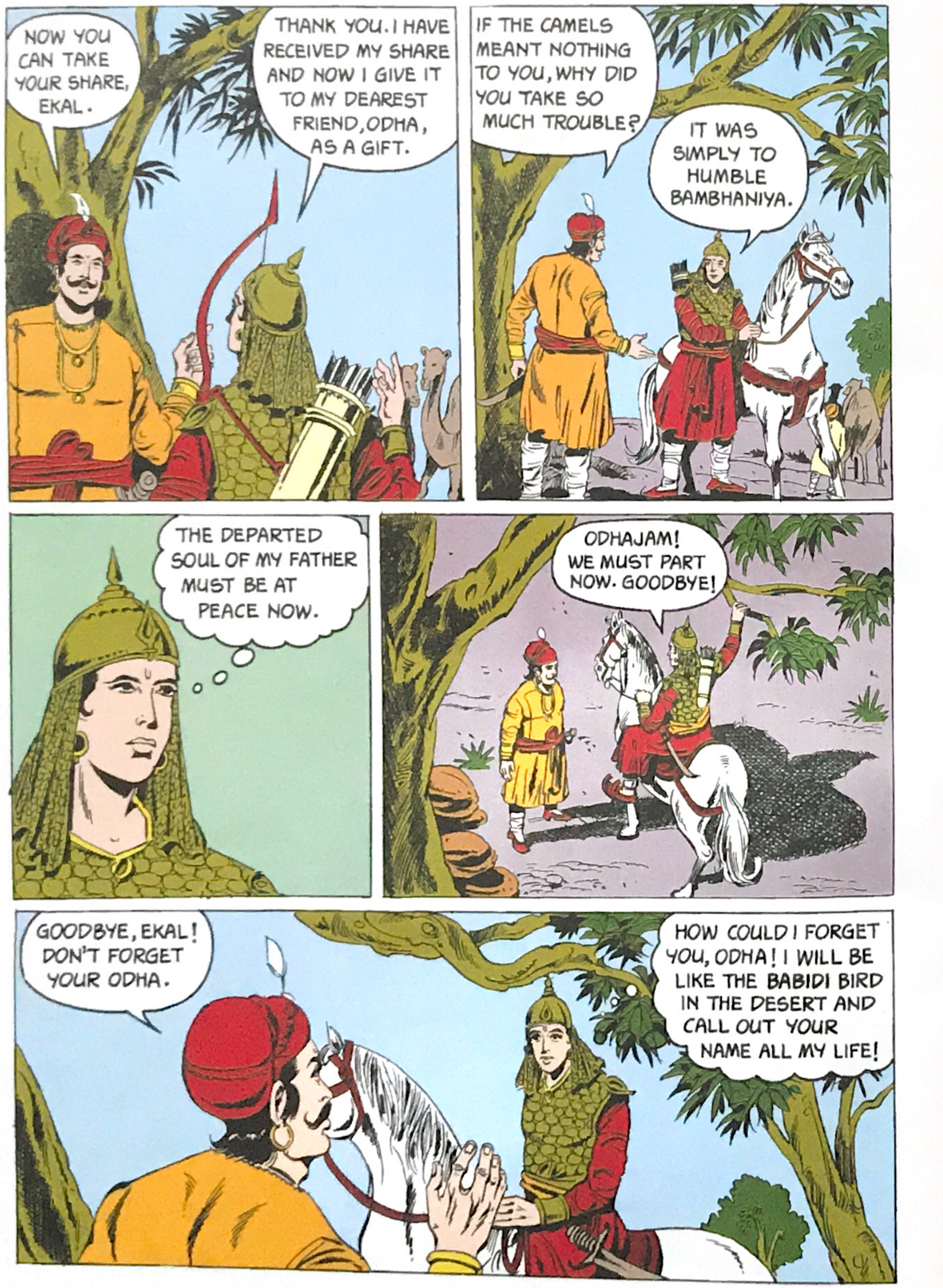

IN A PANIC, ODHA'S MEN TRIED TO DRIVE THE CAMELS OUT. BUT THEY WOULDN'T BUDGE.
MOVE, YOU BRUTE!
WHAT SHALL WE DO? IF THOSE GUARDS COME NEARER, WE ARE LOST!
PATIENCE! I HAVE AN IDEA.
EKAL LIGHTLY PRICKED THE BACK OF A CAMEL WITH AN ARROW TO GET A FEW DROPS OF BLOOD, WHICH HE MOPPED UP WITH A CLOTH. HE THEN WRAPPED THE CLOTH ROUND A SPEAR AND HELD IT UP TO THE NOSE OF THE CAMEL.
SMELLING ITS OWN BLOOD, THE CAMEL FOLLOWED EKALMAL.
THE NEXT MOMENT ALL THE CAMELS FOLLOWED THEIR LEADER.
WHAT A NARROW ESCAPE! I AM LUCKY TO HAVE FOUND SUCH A BRAVE AND CLEVER FRIEND.

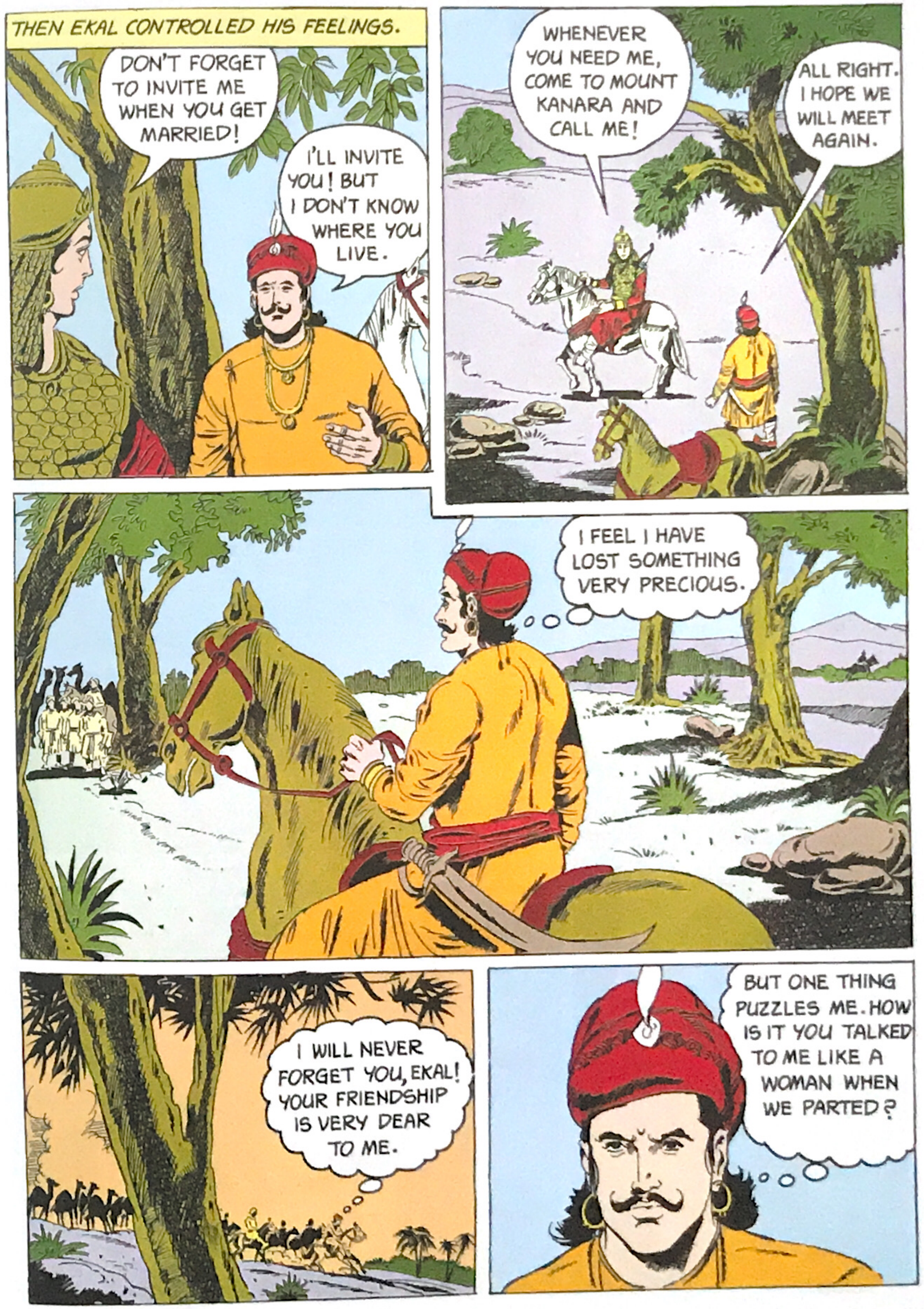

THE MEN LED THE CAMELS AWAY. EKAL AND ODHAJAM TURNED TO DEAL WITH THE GUARDS...
...WHOM THEY SOON VANQUISHED.
BAMBHANIYA WILL CERTAINLY PURSUE US NOW!
THAT'S JUST WHAT WE WANT!
BUT WITH ALL THOSE CAMELS...! THEY'LL SLOW US DOWN.
OH, THE CAMELS! ASK YOUR MEN TO TAKE THEM AWAY AND WAIT FOR US AT THE CROSS-ROAD. WE'LL MEET THEM THERE AFTER DEALING WITH BAMBHANIYA.
AS ODHA'S MEN DEPARTED, THE TWO FRIENDS WAITED FOR THE ENEMY.
SEE THAT CLOUD OF DUST ? THAT MOUST BE BAMBHANIYA S ARMY APPROACHING.

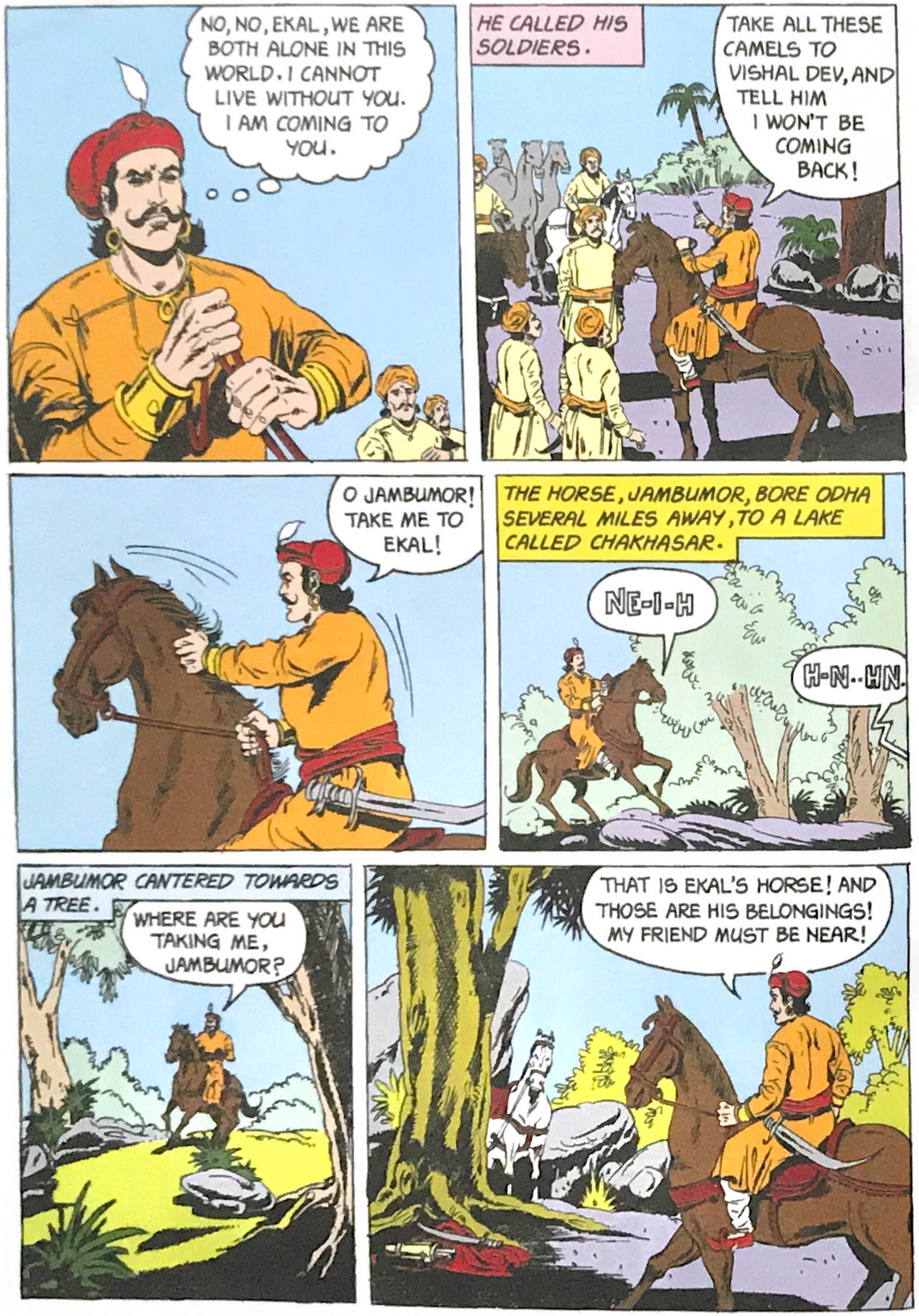

ODHA WAS FILLED WITH ANGER. AS BAMBHANIYA APPROACHED HIS RAGE MOUNTED.
EKAL! TELL BAMBHANIYA TO GO BACK; OR HIS WIFE WILL BECOME A WIDOW.
NO, ODHA! LET HIM COME! WE MUST TEACH HIM A LESSON.
EKAL MOVED LIKE A WHIRLWIND AND KILLED EVERY SOLDIER WHO STOOD IN HIS WAY.
HE EVEN MANAGED TO SHOOT DOWN THE CANOPY OF BAMBHANIYA'S CHARIOT.
BEFORE BAMBHANIYA'S SOLDIERS COULD PICK UP THE FALLEN CANOPY, EKAL SNATCHED IT UP...
...AND RODE SAFELY BACK TO HIS OWN SIDE.

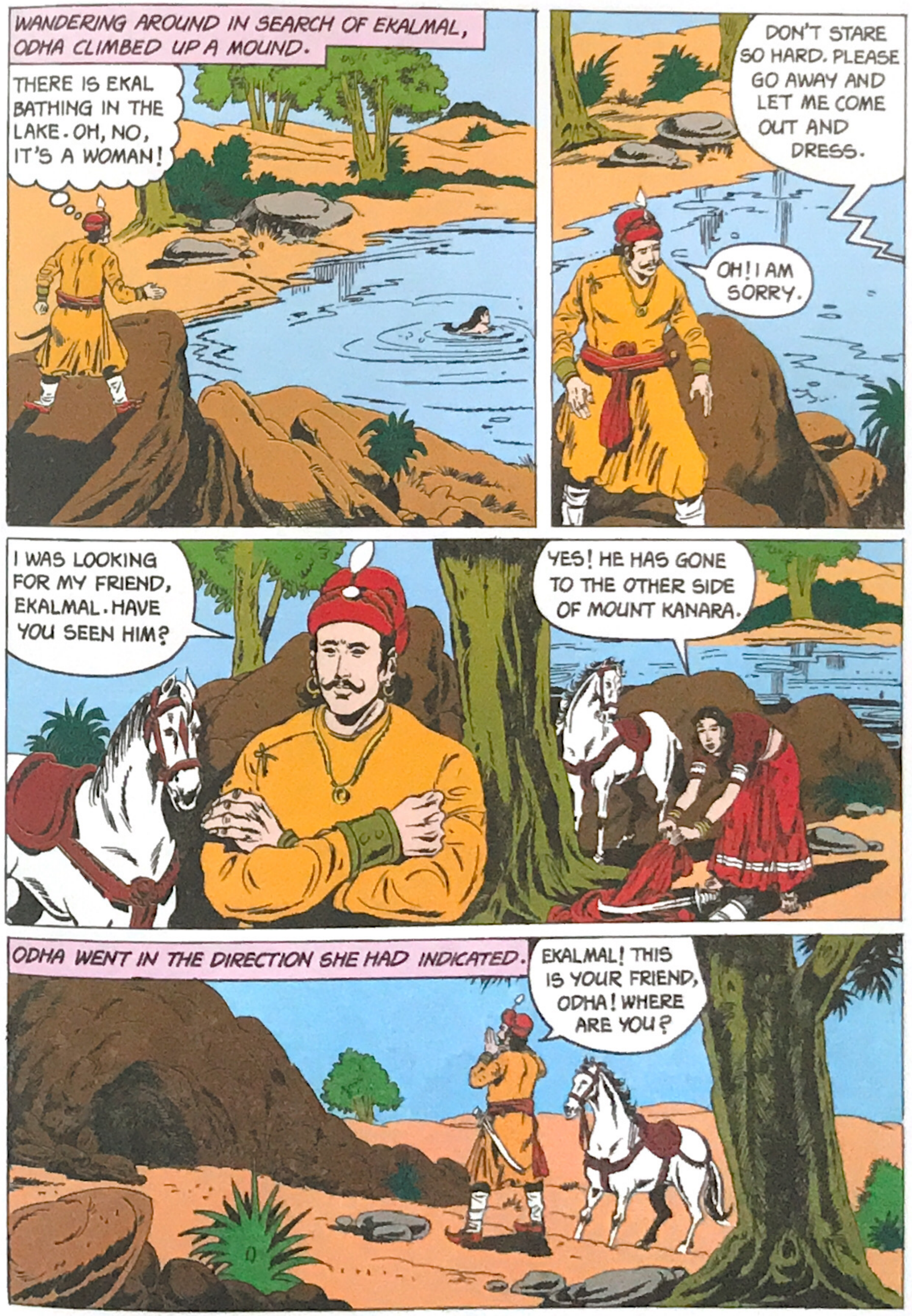

WHAT AMAZING COURAGE! WHO IS THIS MAN?
SIR, IT COULD BE NONE OTHER THAN ODHA!
FULL OF ADMIRATION FOR THE DISGUISED WARRIOR, BAMBHANIYA SHOUTED ACROSS TO HIM —
ARE YOU ODHAJAM OF KIYOR?
OH, NO! I AM A LOWLY SOLDIER IN HIS ARMY.
YOUNG MAN, IF YOU JOIN MY ARMY, YOU WILL GET A HIGH RANK AND A HANDSOME SALARY.
THANK YOU, BUT I CANNOT LEAVE MY ODHAJAM.
SINCERE AND BRAVE SOLDIERS CAN NEVER BE BOUGHT.
AFTER BAMBHANIYA RETREATED —
WHY DID EKAL TURN DOWN THAT MAGNIFICENT OFFER? WHY IS HE SO LOYAL TO ME?

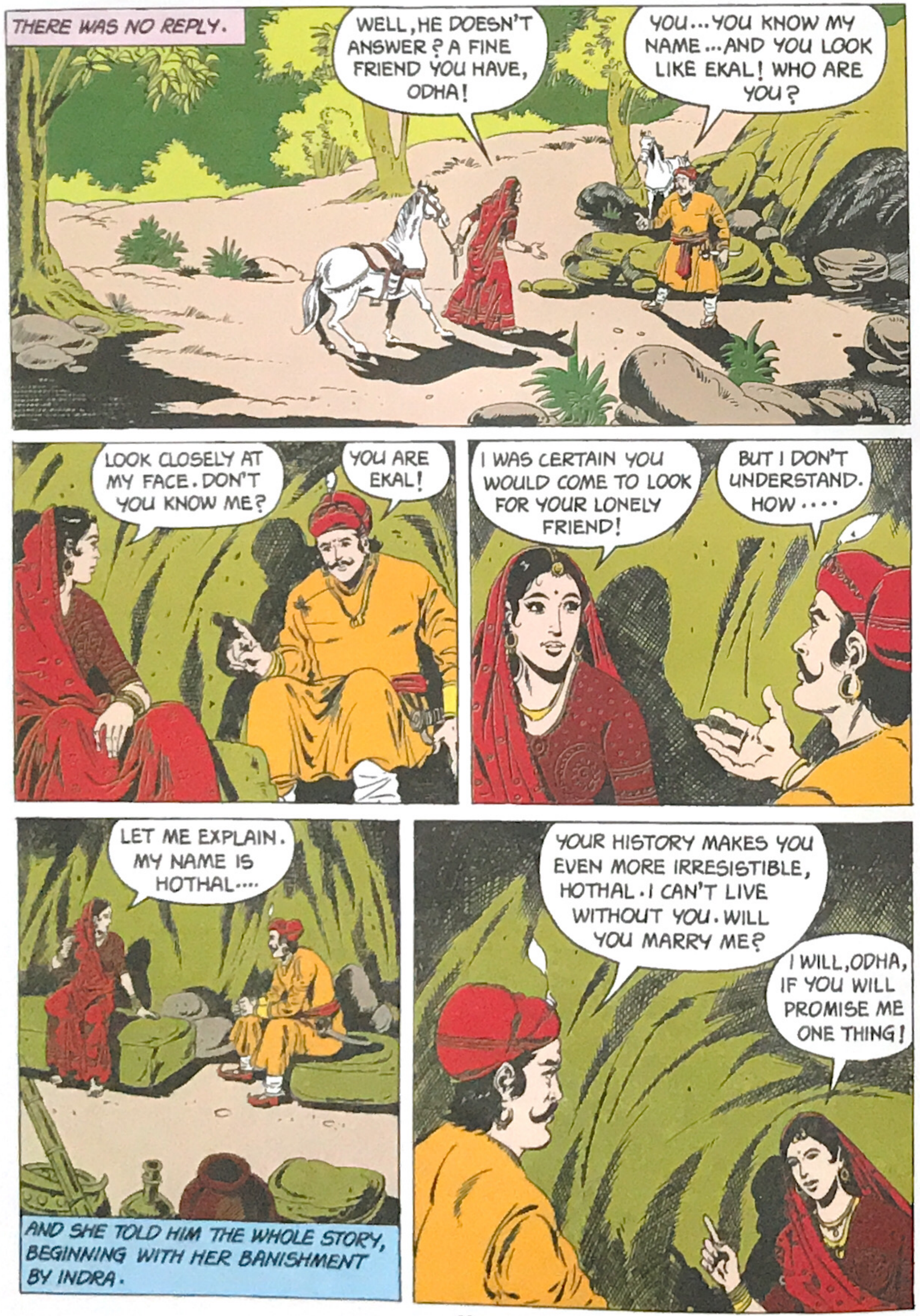

ODHAJAM! WHAT ARE YOU THINKING OF? YOUR MEN MUST BE FRETTING AT THE CROSS-ROAD. LET'S START AT ONCE.
THEY REACHED THE SPOT WHERE ODHA'S SOLDIERS WERE WAITING.
WE HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THE TASK OF SHARING THE CAMELS.
ODHA NOTICED THAT THE CAMELS ON ONE SIDE WERE ROBUST WHILE THOSE ON THE OTHER SIDE LOOKED RATHER WEAK.
THOSE CAMELS ARE YOURS, EKALMAL.
IT'S NOT FAIR TO OFFER EKAL THE WORST CAMELS.
MOUNTING HIS HORSE, ODHA RODE THROUGH THE CENTRE OF EACH GROUP OF CAMELS, THUS DIVIDING THEM INTO TWO FURTHER EQUAL SHARES.

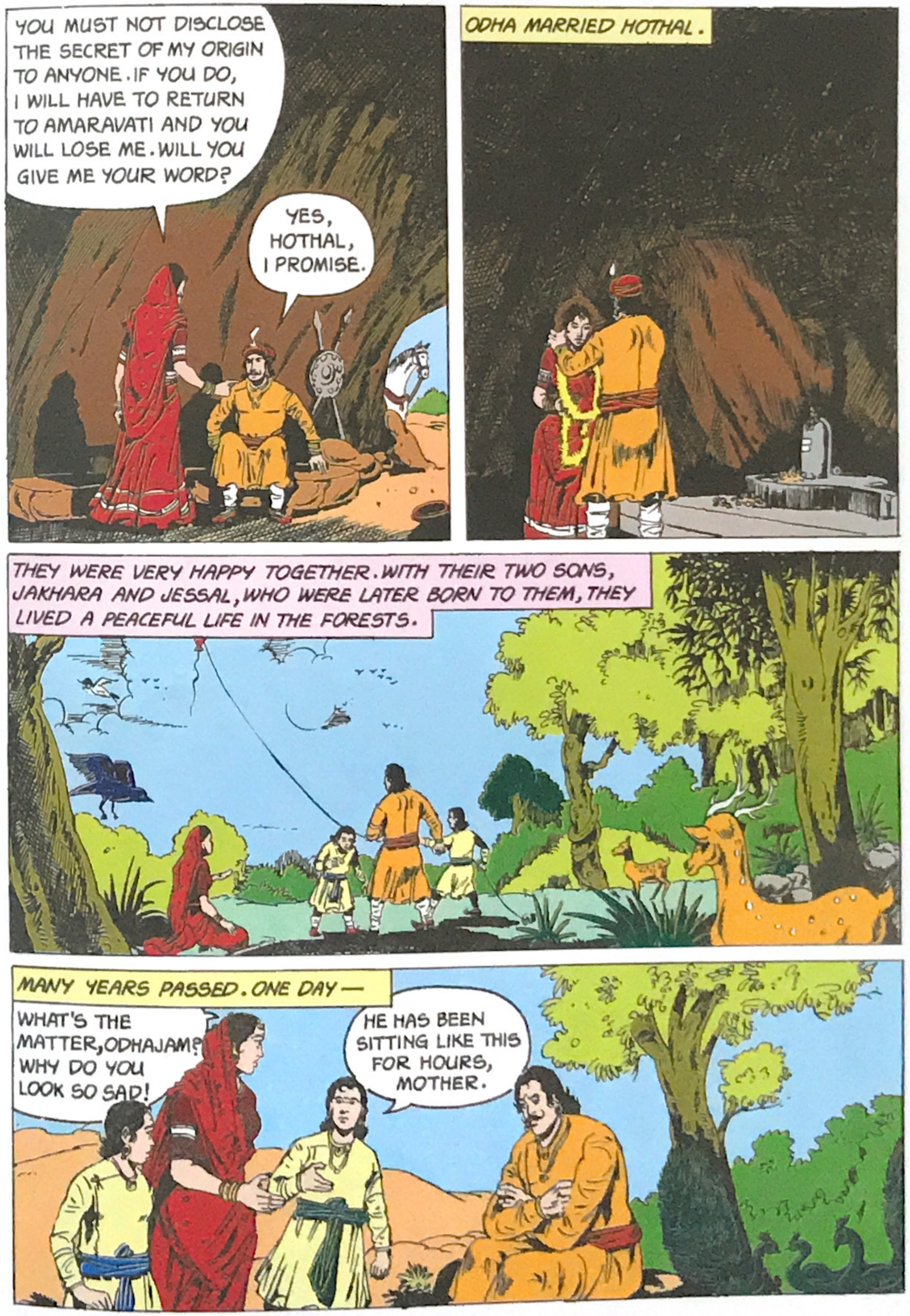

NOW YOU CAN TAKE YOUR SHARE, EKAL.
THANK YOU. I HAVE RECEIVED MY SHARE AND NOW I GIVE IT TO MY DEAREST FRIEND, ODHA, AS A GIFT.
IF THE CAMELS MEANT NOTHING TO YOU, WHY DID YOU TAKE SO MUCH TROUBLE?
IT WAS SIMPLY TO HUMBLE BAMBHANIYA.
THE DEPARTED SOUL OF MY FATHER MUST BE AT PEACE NOW.
ODHAJAM! WE MUST PART NOW. GOODBYE!
GOODBYE, EKAL! DON'T FORGET YOUR ODHA.
HOW COULD I FORGET YOU, ODHA! I WILL BE LIKE THE BABIDI BIRD IN THE DESERT AND CALL OUT YOUR NAME ALL MY LIFE!

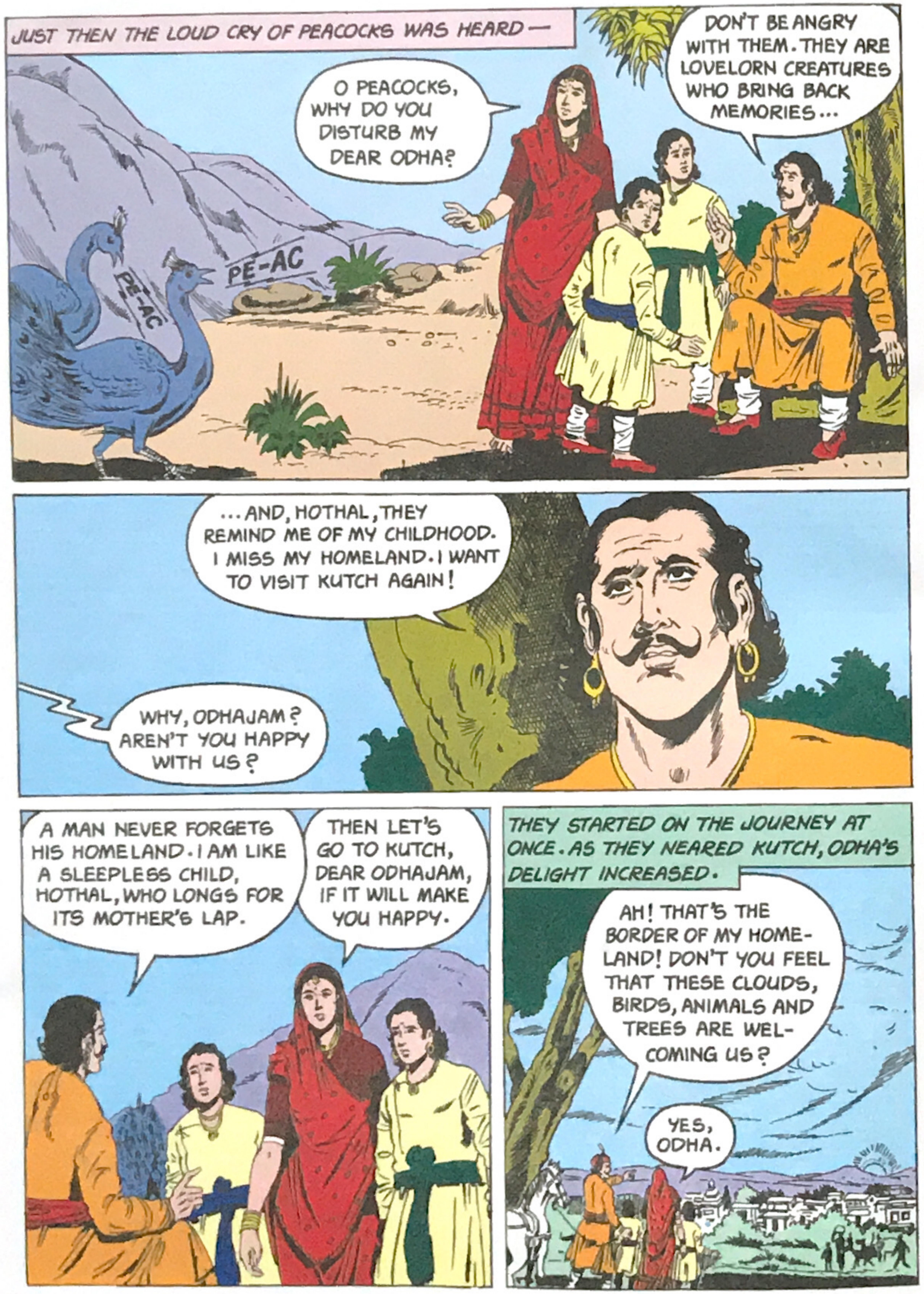

THEN EKAL CONTROLLED HIS FEELINGS.
DON'T FORGET TO INVITE ME WHEN YOU GET MARRIED!
I'LL INVITE YOU! BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU LIVE.
WHENEVER YOU NEED ME, COME TO MOUNT KANARA AND CALL ME!
ALL RIGHT. I HOPE WE WILL MEET AGAIN.
I FEEL I HAVE LOST SOMETHING VERY PRECIOUS.
I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU, EKAL! YOUR FRIENDSHIP IS VERY DEAR TO ME.
BUT ONE THING PUZZLES ME. HOW IS IT YOU TALKED TO ME LIKE A WOMAN WHEN WE PARTED?

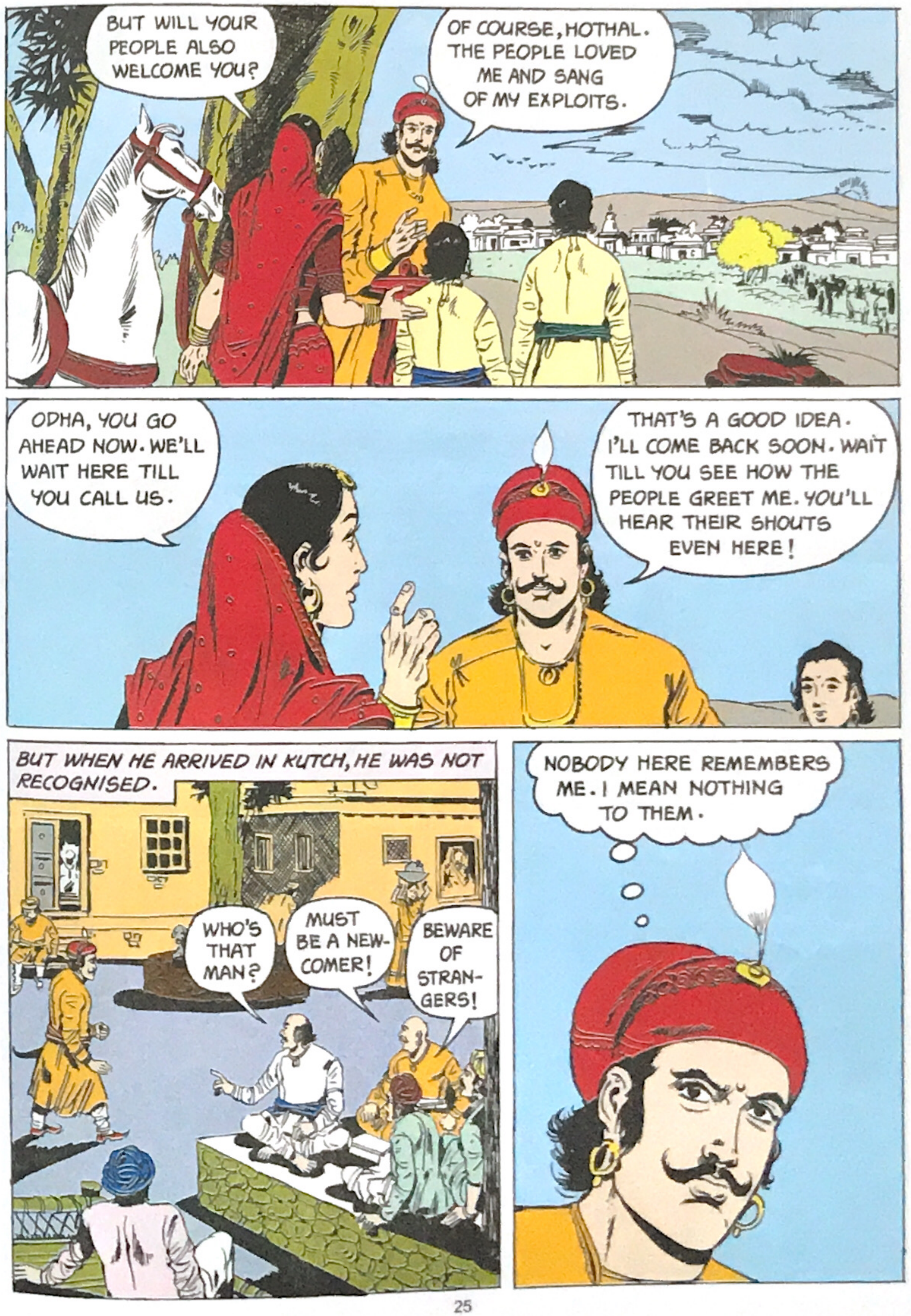

NO, NO, EKAL, WE ARE BOTH ALONE IN THIS WORLD. I CANNOT LIVE WITHOUT YOU. I AM COMING TO YOU.
HE CALLED HIS SOLDIERS.
TAKE ALL THESE CAMELS TO VISHAL DEV, AND TELL HIM I WON'T BE COMING BACK!
O JAMBUMOR! TAKE ME TO EKAL!
THE HORSE, JAMBUMOR, BORE ODHA SEVERAL MILES AWAY, TO A LAKE CALLED CHAKHASAR.
NE-I-H
H-N..HN.
JAMBUMOR CANTERED TOWARDS A TREE.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME, JAMBUMOR?
THAT IS EKAL'S HORSE! AND THOSE ARE HIS BELONGINGS! MY FRIEND MUST BE NEAR!

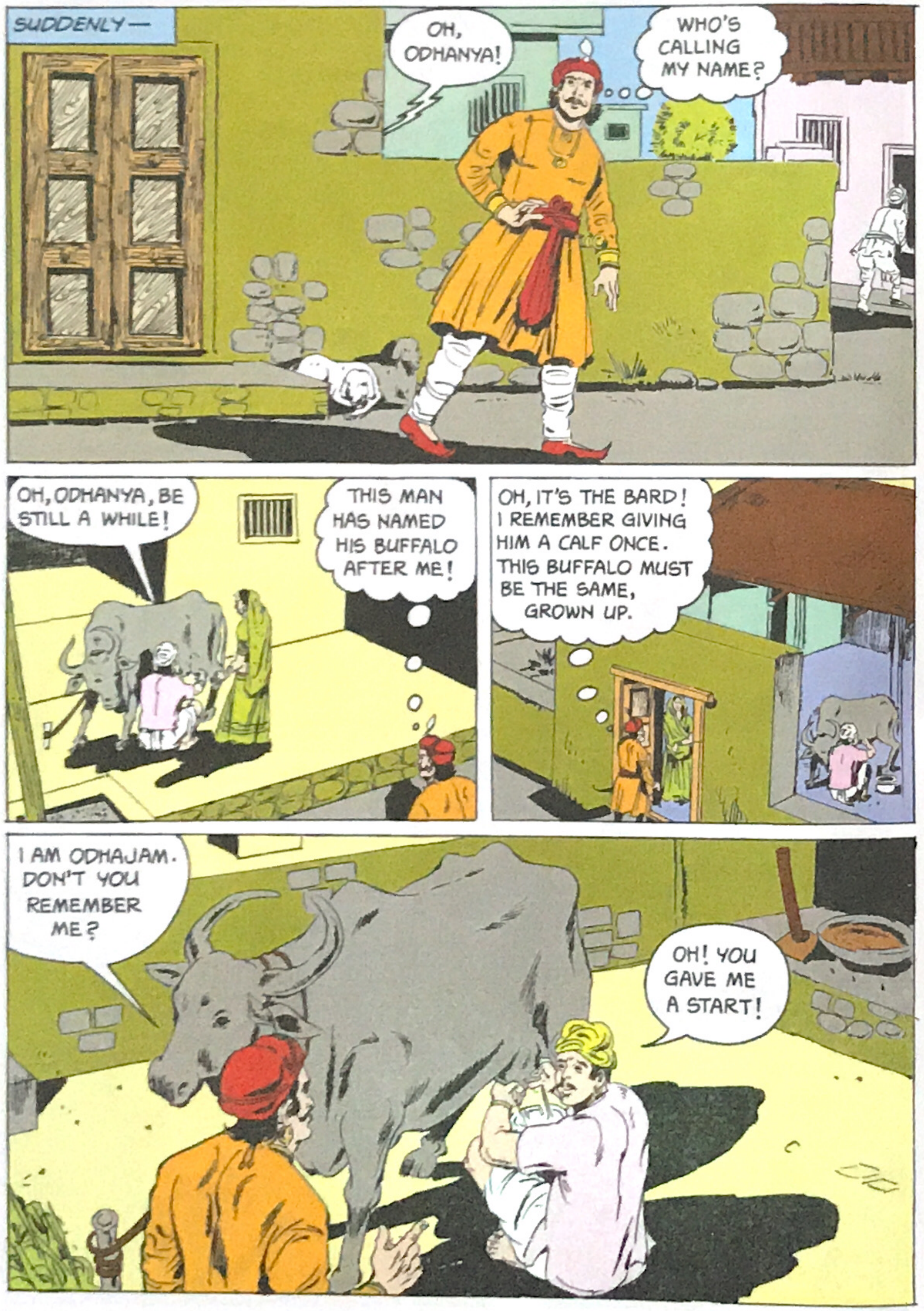

WANDERING AROUND IN SEARCH OF EKALMAL, ODHA CLIMBED UP A MOUND.
THERE IS EKAL BATHING IN THE LAKE. OH, NO, IT'S A WOMAN!
DON'T STARE SO HARD. PLEASE GO AWAY AND LET ME COME OUT AND DRESS.
OH! I AM SORRY.
I WAS LOOKING FOR MY FRIEND, EKALMAL. HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?
YES! HE HAS GONE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF MOUNT KANARA.
ODHA WENT IN THE DIRECTION SHE HAD INDICATED.
EKALMAL! THIS IS YOUR FRIEND, ODHA! WHERE ARE YOU?

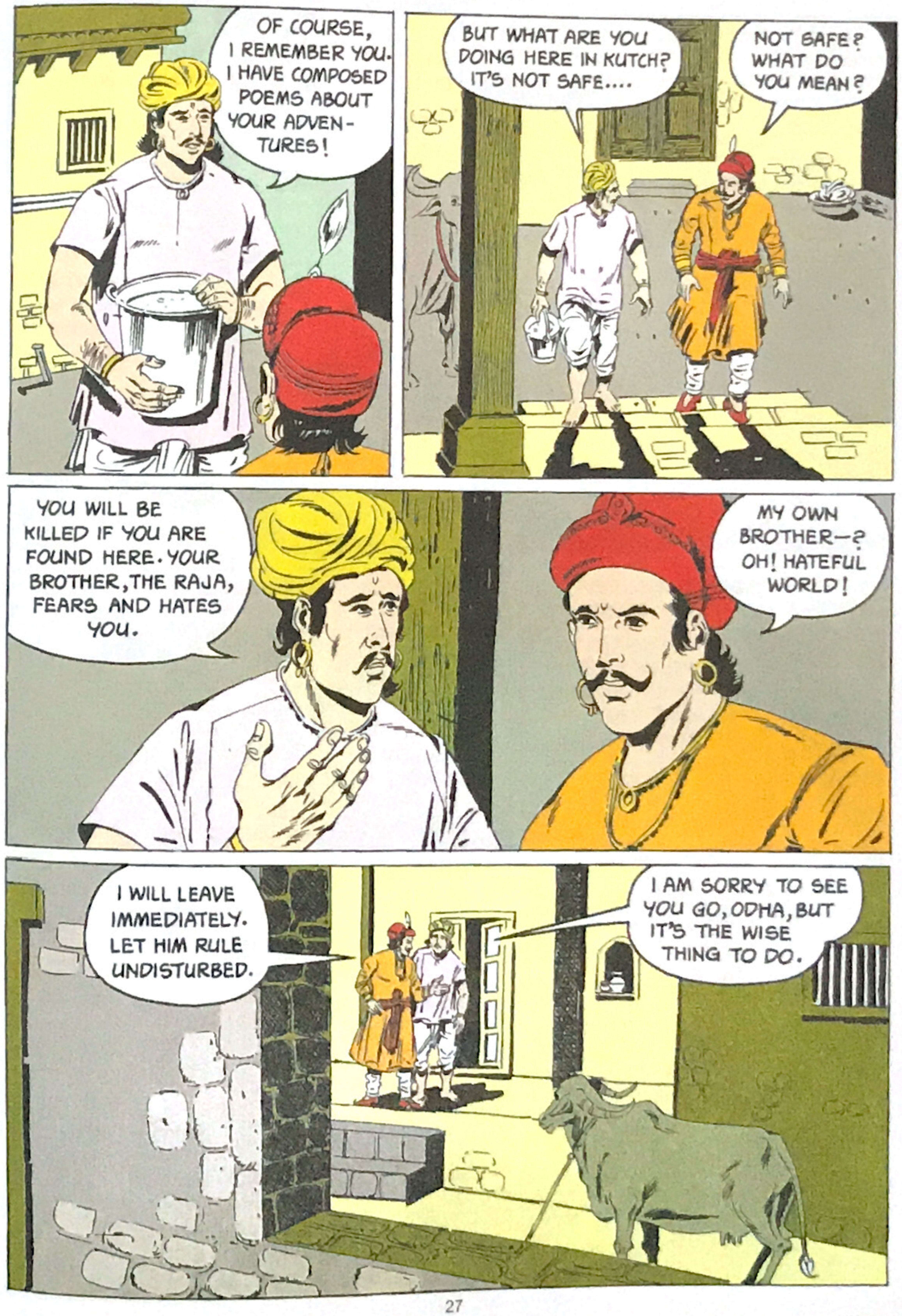

THERE WAS NO REPLY.
WELL, HE DOESN'T ANSWER? A FINE FRIEND YOU HAVE, ODHA!
YOU... YOU KNOW MY NAME... AND YOU LOOK LIKE EKAL! WHO ARE YOU?
LOOK CLOSELY AT MY FACE. DON'T YOU KNOW ME?
YOU ARE EKAL!
I WAS CERTAIN YOU WOULD COME TO LOOK FOR YOUR LONELY FRIEND!
BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW....
LET ME EXPLAIN. MY NAME IS HOTHAL....
AND SHE TOLD HIM THE WHOLE STORY, BEGINNING WITH HER BANISHMENT BY INDRA.
YOUR HISTORY MAKES YOU EVEN MORE IRRESISTIBLE, HOTHAL. I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU. WILL YOU MARRY ME?
I WILL, ODHA, IF YOU WILL PROMISE ME ONE THING!

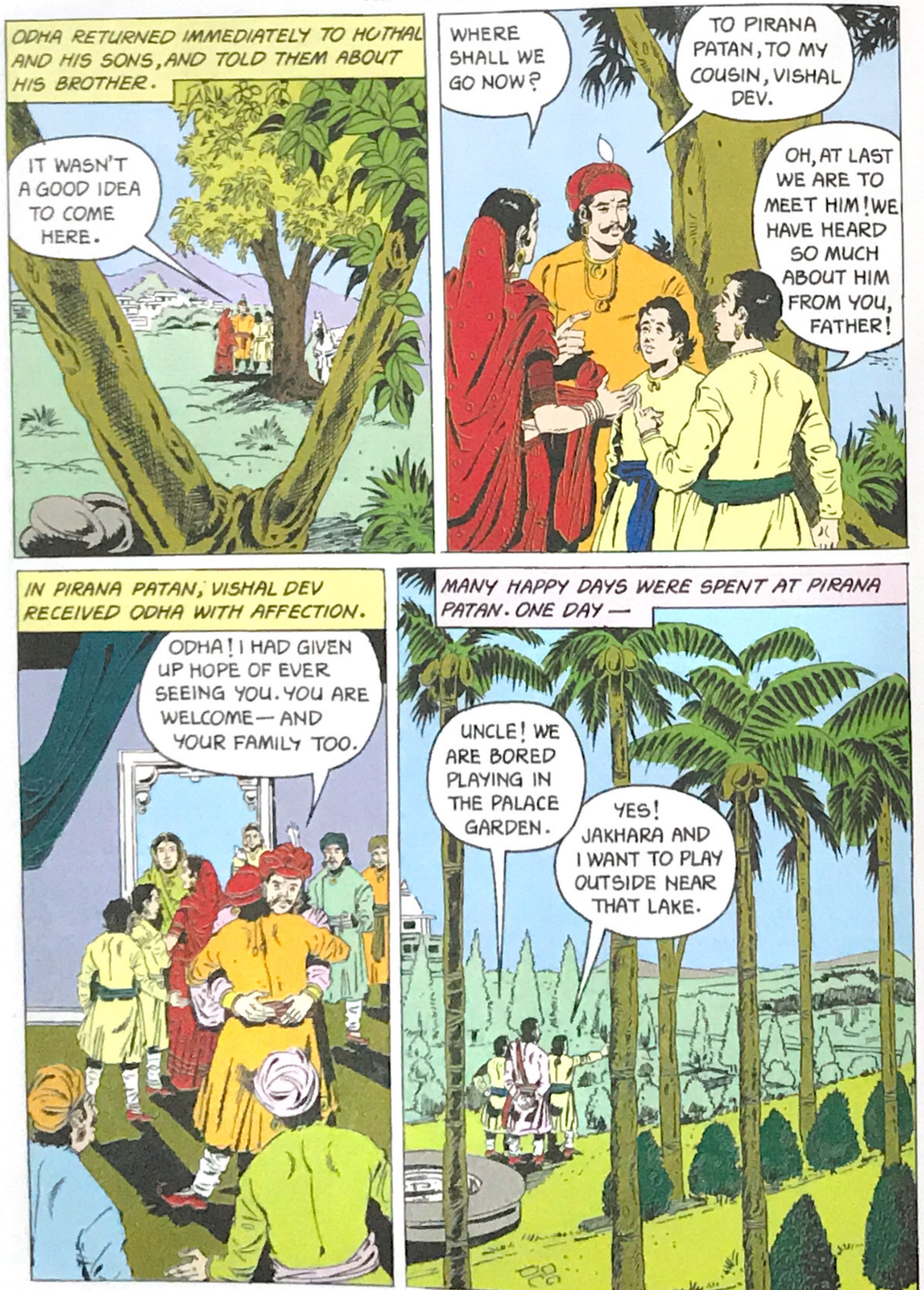

YOU MUST NOT DISCLOSE THE SECRET OF MY ORIGIN TO ANYONE. IF YOU DO, I WILL HAVE TO RETURN TO AMARAVATI AND YOU WILL LOSE ME. WILL YOU GIVE ME YOUR WORD?
YES, HOTHAL, I PROMISE.
ODHA MARRIED HOTHAL.
THEY WERE VERY HAPPY TOGETHER. WITH THEIR TWO SONS, JAKHARA AND JESSAL, WHO WERE LATER BORN TO THEM, THEY LIVED A PEACEFUL LIFE IN THE FORESTS.
MANY YEARS PASSED. ONE DAY —
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ODHAJAM? WHY DO YOU LOOK SO SAD!
HE HAS BEEN SITTING LIKE THIS FOR HOURS, MOTHER.

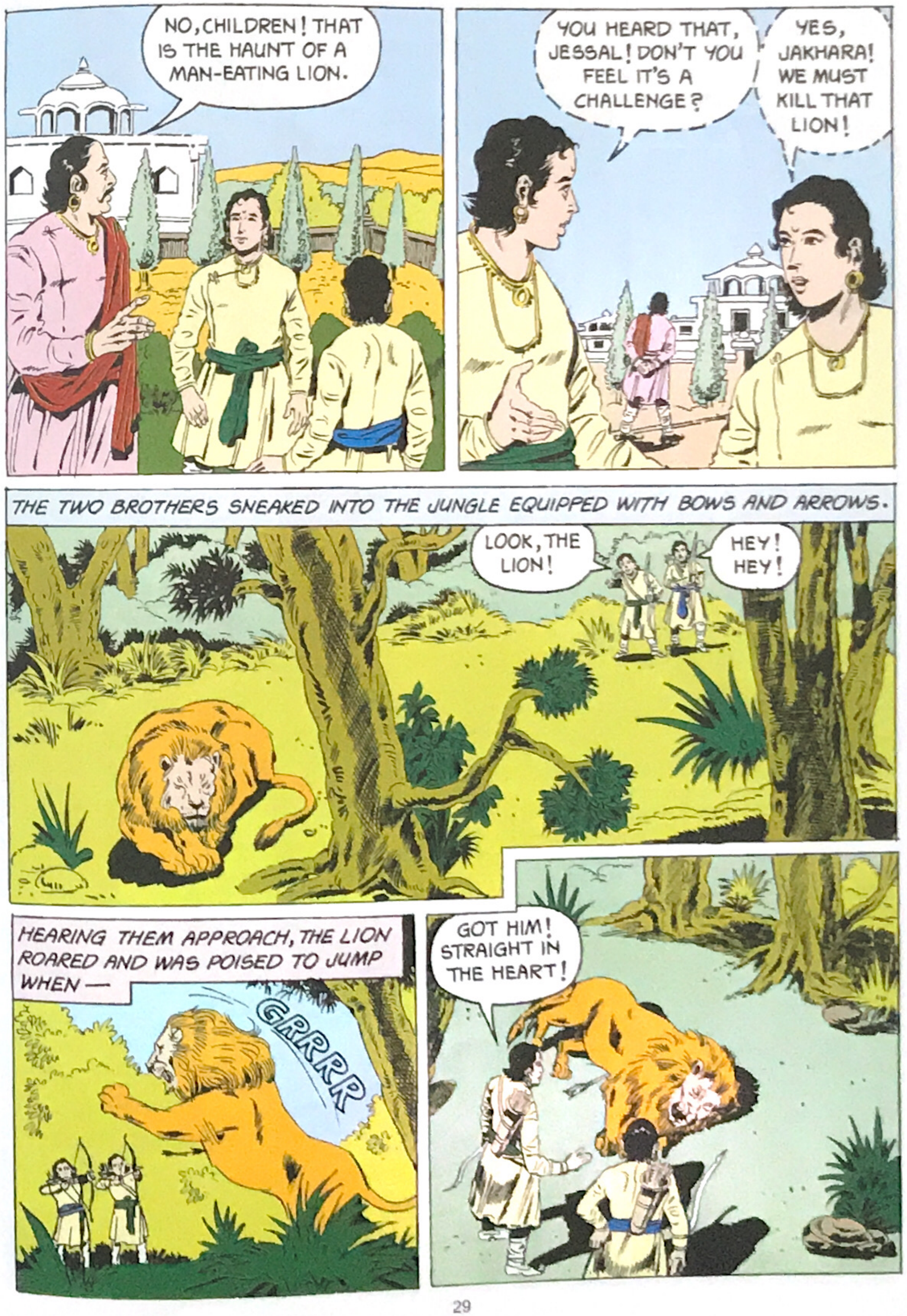

JUST THEN THE LOUD CRY OF PEACOCKS WAS HEARD —
PE-AC
PE-AC
O PEACOCKS, WHY DO YOU DISTURB MY DEAR ODHA?
DON'T BE ANGRY WITH THEM. THEY ARE LOVELORN CREATURES WHO BRING BACK MEMORIES...
...AND, HOTHAL, THEY REMIND ME OF MY CHILDHOOD. I MISS MY HOMELAND. I WANT TO VISIT KUTCH AGAIN!
WHY, ODHAJAM? AREN'T YOU HAPPY WITH US?
A MAN NEVER FORGETS HIS HOMELAND. I AM LIKE A SLEEPLESS CHILD, HOTHAL, WHO LONGS FOR ITS MOTHER'S LAP.
THEN LET'S GO TO KUTCH, DEAR ODHAJAM, IF IT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY.
THEY STARTED ON THE JOURNEY AT ONCE. AS THEY NEARED KUTCH, ODHA'S DELIGHT INCREASED.
AH! THAT'S THE BORDER OF MY HOMELAND! DON'T YOU FEEL THAT THESE CLOUDS, BIRDS, ANIMALS AND TREES ARE WELCOMING US?
YES, ODHA.

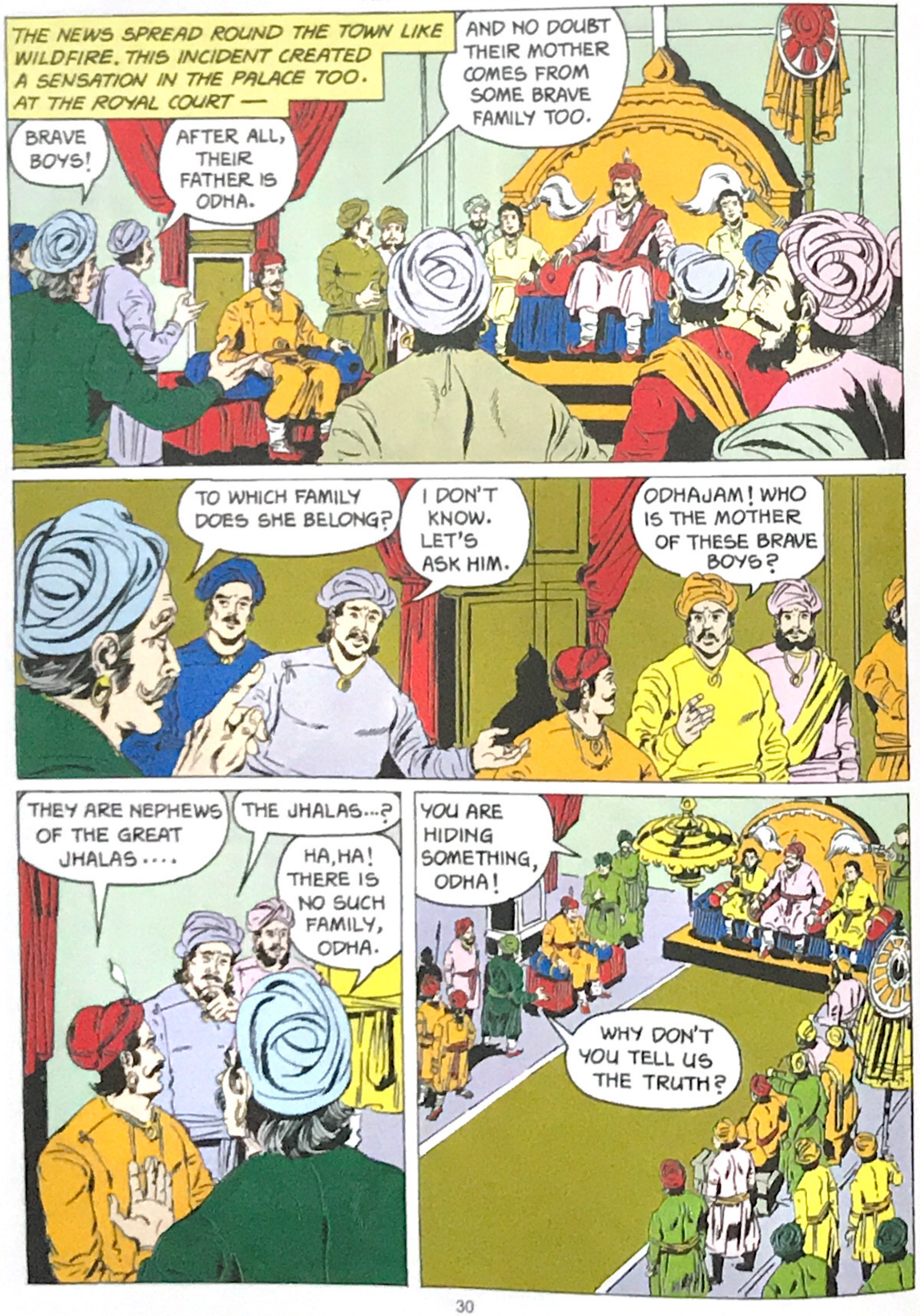

BUT WILL YOUR PEOPLE ALSO WELCOME YOU?
OF COURSE, HOTHAL. THE PEOPLE LOVED ME AND SANG OF MY EXPLOITS.
ODHA, YOU GO AHEAD NOW. WE'LL WAIT HERE TILL YOU CALL US.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA. I'LL COME BACK SOON. WAIT TILL YOU SEE HOW THE PEOPLE GREET ME. YOU'LL HEAR THEIR SHOUTS EVEN HERE!
BUT WHEN HE ARRIVED IN KUTCH, HE WAS NOT RECOGNISED.
WHO'S THAT MAN?
MUST BE A NEWCOMER!
BEWARE OF STRANGERS!
NOBODY HERE REMEMBERS ME. I MEAN NOTHING TO THEM.

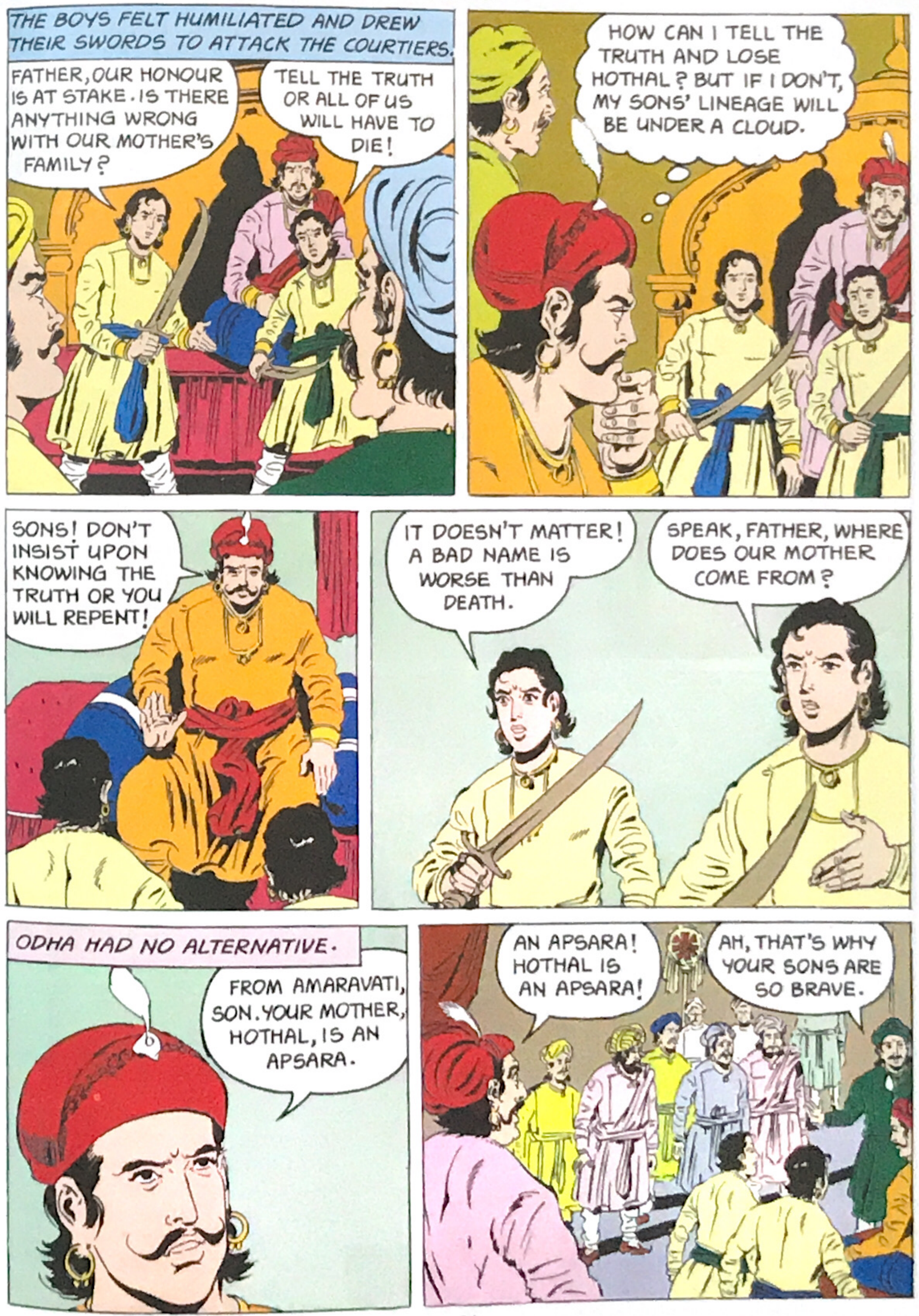

SUDDENLY—
OH, ODHANYA!
WHO'S CALLING MY NAME?
OH, ODHANYA, BE STILL A WHILE!
THIS MAN HAS NAMED HIS BUFFALO AFTER ME!
OH, IT'S THE BARD! I REMEMBER GIVING HIM A CALF ONCE. THIS BUFFALO MUST BE THE SAME, GROWN UP.
I AM ODHAJAM. DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?
OH! YOU GAVE ME A START!

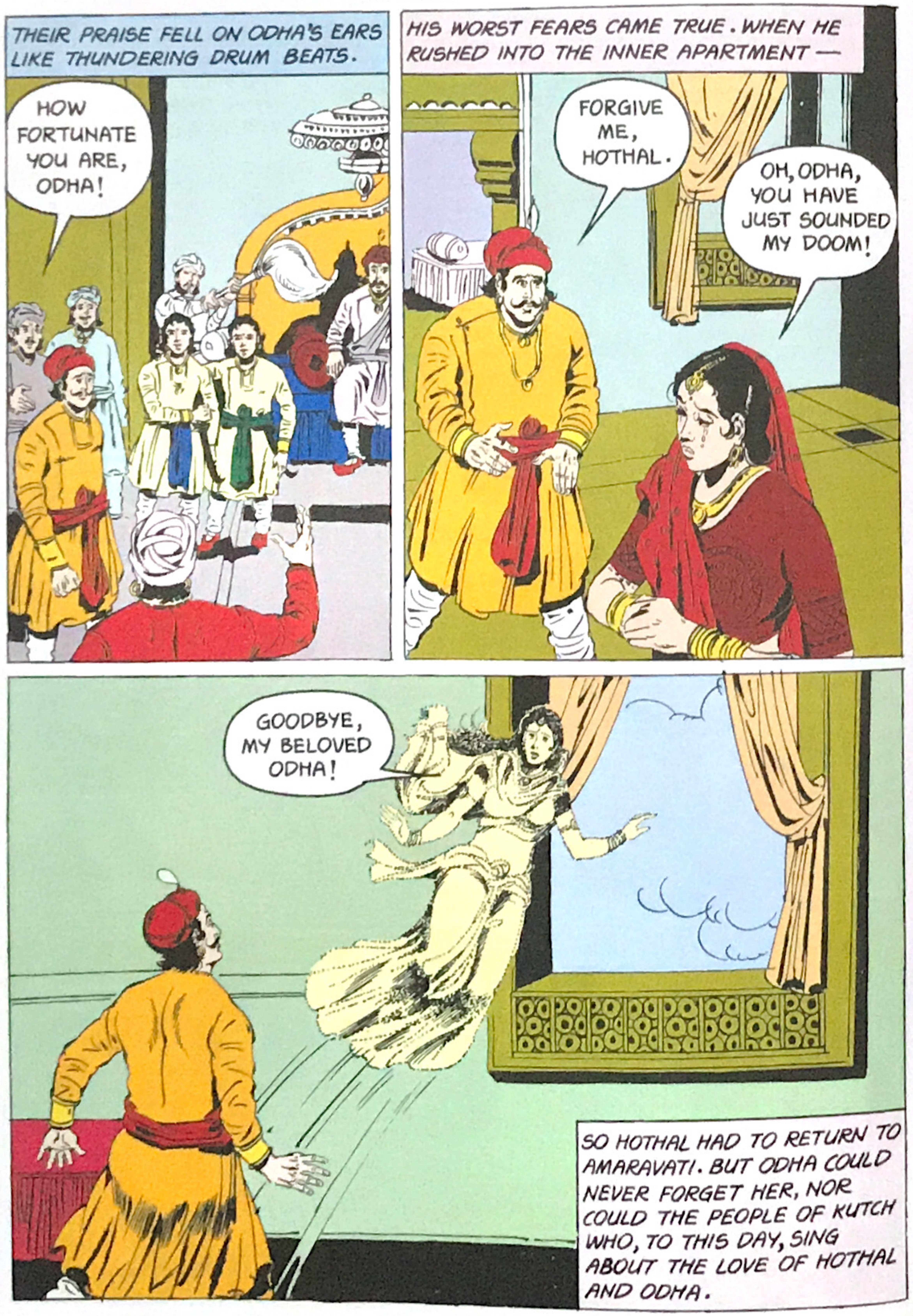

OF COURSE, I REMEMBER YOU. I HAVE COMPOSED POEMS ABOUT YOUR ADVENTURES!
BUT WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE IN KUTCH? IT'S NOT SAFE....
NOT SAFE? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
YOU WILL BE KILLED IF YOU ARE FOUND HERE. YOUR BROTHER, THE RAJA, FEARS AND HATES YOU.
MY OWN BROTHER—? OH! HATEFUL WORLD!
I WILL LEAVE IMMEDIATELY. LET HIM RULE UNDISTURBED.
I AM SORRY TO SEE YOU GO, ODHA, BUT IT'S THE WISE THING TO DO.


ODHA RETURNED IMMEDIATELY TO HOTHAL AND HIS SONS, AND TOLD THEM ABOUT HIS BROTHER.
IT WASN'T A GOOD IDEA TO COME HERE.
WHERE SHALL WE GO NOW?
TO PIRANA PATAN, TO MY COUSIN, VISHAL DEV.
OH, AT LAST WE ARE TO MEET HIM! WE HAVE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT HIM FROM YOU, FATHER!
IN PIRANA PATAN, VISHAL DEV RECEIVED ODHA WITH AFFECTION.
ODHA! I HAD GIVEN UP HOPE OF EVER SEEING YOU. YOU ARE WELCOME— AND YOUR FAMILY TOO.
MANY HAPPY DAYS WERE SPENT AT PIRANA PATAN. ONE DAY —
UNCLE! WE ARE BORED PLAYING IN THE PALACE GARDEN.
YES! JAKHARA AND I WANT TO PLAY OUTSIDE NEAR THAT LAKE.


NO, CHILDREN! THAT IS THE HAUNT OF A MAN-EATING LION.
YOU HEARD THAT, JESSAL! DON'T YOU FEEL IT'S A CHALLENGE?
YES, JAKHARA! WE MUST KILL THAT LION!
THE TWO BROTHERS SNEAKED INTO THE JUNGLE EQUIPPED WITH BOWS AND ARROWS.
LOOK, THE LION!
HEY! HEY!
HEARING THEM APPROACH, THE LION ROARED AND WAS POISED TO JUMP WHEN —
GRRRR
GOT HIM! STRAIGHT IN THE HEART!


THE NEWS SPREAD ROUND THE TOWN LIKE WILDFIRE. THIS INCIDENT CREATED A SENSATION IN THE PALACE TOO. AT THE ROYAL COURT —
AND NO DOUBT THEIR MOTHER COMES FROM SOME BRAVE FAMILY TOO.
BRAVE BOYS!
AFTER ALL, THEIR FATHER IS ODHA.
TO WHICH FAMILY DOES SHE BELONG?
I DON'T KNOW. LET'S ASK HIM.
ODHAJAM! WHO IS THE MOTHER OF THESE BRAVE BOYS?
THEY ARE NEPHEWS OF THE GREAT JHALAS....
THE JHALAS...?
HA, HA! THERE IS NO SUCH FAMILY, ODHA.
YOU ARE HIDING SOMETHING, ODHA!
WHY DON'T YOU TELL US THE TRUTH?


THE BOYS FELT HUMILIATED AND DREW THEIR SWORDS TO ATTACK THE COURTIERS.
FATHER, OUR HONOUR IS AT STAKE. IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH OUR MOTHER'S FAMILY?
TELL THE TRUTH OR ALL OF US WILL HAVE TO DIE!
HOW CAN I TELL THE TRUTH AND LOSE HOTHAL? BUT IF I DON'T, MY SONS' LINEAGE WILL BE UNDER A CLOUD.
SONS! DON'T INSIST UPON KNOWING THE TRUTH OR YOU WILL REPENT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER! A BAD NAME IS WORSE THAN DEATH.
SPEAK, FATHER, WHERE DOES OUR MOTHER COME FROM?
ODHA HAD NO ALTERNATIVE.
FROM AMARAVATI, SON. YOUR MOTHER, HOTHAL, IS AN APSARA.
AN APSARA! HOTHAL IS AN APSARA!
AH, THAT'S WHY YOUR SONS ARE SO BRAVE.


THEIR PRAISE FELL ON ODHA'S EARS LIKE THUNDERING DRUM BEATS.
HOW FORTUNATE YOU ARE, ODHA!
HIS WORST FEARS CAME TRUE. WHEN HE RUSHED INTO THE INNER APARTMENT—
FORGIVE ME, HOTHAL.
OH, ODHA, YOU HAVE JUST SOUNDED MY DOOM!
GOODBYE, MY BELOVED ODHA!
SO HOTHAL HAD TO RETURN TO AMARAVATI. BUT ODHA COULD NEVER FORGET HER, NOR COULD THE PEOPLE OF KUTCH WHO, TO THIS DAY, SING ABOUT THE LOVE OF HOTHAL AND ODHA.

WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY
Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas

Abhimanyu
Agastya
Andhaka
Aniruddha
Aruni And Uttanka
Ashwini Kumars
Ayyappan
Bahubali
Bhanumati
Bheema And Hanuman
Bheeshma
Chandrahasa
Dasharatha
Dhruva And Ashtavakra
Draupadi
Drona
Elephanta
Gandhari
Ganesha
Ganesha And The Moon
Ganga
Garuda
Ghatotkacha
Hanuman
Hanuman To The Rescue
Harischandra
Heroes Of Hampi
Indra And Shachi
Indra And Shibi
Indra And Vritra
Jagannatha Of Puri
Jayadratha
Kacha And Devayani
Karna
Karttikeya
Konark
Krishna
Krishna And Jarasandha
Krishna And Narakasura
Krishna And Rukmini
Krishna And Shishupala
Krishna And The False Vaasudeva
Kubera
Kumbhakarna
Mahabharata
Mahiravana
Nachiketa
Nahusha
Nala Damayanti
Pareekshit
Parashurama
Prabhavati
Pradyumna
Prahlad
Purushottam Dev And Padmavati
Rama
Ravana Humbled
Saraswati
Sati And Shiva
Savitri
Shiva Parvati
Stories of Creation
Subhadra
Sudama
Sukanya
Surya
Tales From The Upanishads
Tales Of Arjuna
Tales Of Balarama
Tales Of Durga
Tales Of Indra
Tales Of Narada
Tales Of Shiva
Tales Of Vishnu
Tales Of Yudhishthira
Tapati
Thanjavur
The Churning Of The Ocean
The Gita
The Golden Mongoose
The King In A Parrot's Body
The Lord Of Lanka
The Pandava Princes
The Pandavas In Hiding
The Parijata Tree
The Sons Of Rama
The Syamantaka Gem
Tirupati
Tripura
Uloopi
Vaishno Devi
Vali
Vishwamitra
Yayati

VISIONARIES
Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders

Adi Shankara
Albert Einstein
Anant Pai
Babasaheb Ambedkar
Basaveshwara
Buddha
Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
Chanakya
Chokha Mela
Dayananda
Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das
Eknath
Fa Hien
Ghanshyamdas Birla
Guru Arjan
Guru Gobind Singh
Guru Har Gobind
Guru Nanak
Guru Tegh Bahadur
Hiuen Tsang
J.R.D Tata
Jagadis Chandra Bose
Jamsetji Tata
Jawaharlal Nehru
Jayaprakash Narayan
Jim Corbett
Jnaneshwar
Kabir
Kalidasa
Lal Bahadur Shastri
Lokmanya Tilak
M. S. Subbulakshmi
Madhvacharya
Mahavira
Marie And Pierre Curie
Megasthenes
Mirabai
Mother Teresa
Narayan Guru
Rabindranath Tagore
Ram Shastri
Ramana Maharshi
Ramanuja
Salim Ali
Shankar Dev
Soordas
Sri. Ramakrishna
Srinivasa Ramanujan
Subramania Bharati
Swami Chinmayananda
Swami Pranavananda
Tales Of Sai Baba
Tansen
Tulsidas
Vidyasagar
Vivekananda
Zarathushtra

INDIAN CLASSICS
Enchanting tales from Indian literature

Ananda Math
Ancestors Of Rama
Devi Choudhurani
Durgesh Nandini
Kadambari
Kannagi
Kapala Kundala
Kumanan
Maarthaanda Varma
Malavika
Manonmani
Prince Jivaka
Raj Singh
Ratnavali
Shakuntala
The Adventures Of Pratapan
The Elusive Kaka
Udayana
Urvashi
Vasantasena
Vasavadatta
Veer Dhaval

FABLES AND HUMOUR
Evergreen folktales, legends and tales of wisdom and humour

A Bag Of Gold Coins
Amrapali
Andher Nagari
Angulimala
Bikal The Terrible
BIRBAL STORIES
  Birbal The Clever
  Birbal The Genius
  Birbal The Just
  Birbal The Wise
  Birbal The Witty
  Birbal To The Rescue
  The Inimitable Birbal
Chandralalat
Dhola And Maru
Friends And Foes
Gopal And The Cowherd
Gopal The Jester
HITOPADESHA TALES
  Choice Of Friends
  How Friends Are Parted
Hothal
JATAKA TALES
  Battle Of Wits
  Bird Stories
  Deer Stories
  Elephant Stories
  Jackal Stories
  Monkey Stories
  Nandi Vishala
  Stories Of Courage
  Stories Of Wisdom
  Tales Of Misers
  The Deadly Feast
  The Giant And The Dwarf
  The Hidden Treasure
  The Magic Chant
  The Mouse Merchant
  True Friends
Kanwal And Kehar
Kesari The Flying Thief
King Kusha
Manduka
PANCHATANTRA TALES
  Crows And Owls
  How The Jackal Ate The Elephant
  The Brahmin And The Goat
  The Dullard
  The Greedy Mother-in-law
  The Jackal And The Wardrum
Raman Of Tenali
Raman The Matchless Wit
Sahasramalla
Sakshi Gopal
Satwant Kaur
Sharan Kaur
Shrenik
Sukhu And Dukhu
Sundari
Tales Of Maryada Rama
The Acrobat
The Adventures Of Agad Datta
The Adventures Of Baddu And Chhotu
The Bridegroom's Ring
The Celestial Necklace
The Clever Dancer
The Cowherd Of Alawi
The Fearless Boy
The Fool's Disciples
The Golden Sand
The Green Demon
The Unhappy Tiger
The Learned Pandit
The Lost Prince
The Magic Grove
The Miraculous Conch
The Mystery Of The Missing Gift
The Pandit And The Milkmaid
The Pig And The Dog
The Pious Cat
The Priceless Gem
The Prince And The Magician
The Prophecy
The Queen's Necklace
The Rainbow Prince
The Secret Of The Talking Bird
The Silent Teacher
The Tiger And The Woodpecker
The Tiger Eater
Thugsen
Vidyut Chora
Vikramaditya's Throne

BRAVEHEARTS
Stirring tales of brave men and women of India

A Nation Awakes
Ahilyabai Holkar
Ajatashatru
Akbar
Amar Singh Rathor
Ashoka
Babur
Bagha Jatin
Bajirao I
Baladitya And Yashodharma
Balban
Banda Bahadur
Bappa Rawal
Beni Madho And Pir Ali
Bhagat Singh
Bidhi Chand
Bimbisara
Chand Bibi
Chandra Shekhar Azad
Chandragupta Maurya
Chennamma Of Keladi
Dara Shukho And Aurangazeb
Durgadas
Ellora Caves
Hakka And Bukka
Hari Singh Nalwa
Harsha
Hemu
Humayun
Jahangir
Jallianwala Bagh
Kalpana Chawla
Kochunni
Krishnadeva Raya
Kumwar Singh
Lachit Barphukan
Lalitaditya
Mangal Pande
Noor Jahan
Padmini
Panna And Hadi Rani
Paurava And Alexander
Prithviraj Chauhan
Raja Bhoja
Raja Raja Chola
Rana Kumbha
Rana Pratap
Rana Sanga
Rani Abbakka
Rani Durgavati
Rani Of Jhansi
Ranjit Singh
Rash Bihari Bose
Roopmati
Sambhaji
Samudra Gupta
Sea Route To India
Shah Jahan
Shalivahana
Shantala
Sher Shah
Shivaji
Subhas Chandra Bose
Sultana Razia
Surjya Sen
Tachcholi Othenan
Tales Of Shivaji
Tanaji
Tenzing Norgay
The Historic City Of Delhi
The Rani Of Kittur
Tipu Sultan
Veer Hammir
Veer Savarkar
Velu Thampi
Vikramaditya

CONTEMPORARY CLASSICS
(New Category)
The best of modern Indian literature

The Blue Umbrella

Titles available in English and other Regional languages on www.amarchitrakatha.com